■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1
'I was a virgin till I was 17,' MiG Ayesa talks of sex

■ BUSINESS / B1
Chair of banking giant HSBC has high hopes for RP economy

■ NEWS / A9
'Maximo Oliveros' wins Grand Prize in Asian fest of first films in Singapore

■ BUSINESS / B1
OFW earnings projected to hit $10.3B for '05 still main growth driver

This councilor wants to ban 'quickies' in QC

BAWAL NA ANG SHORT-TIME!

By DJ Yap

NO MORE "QUICKIES" IN Quezon City?

A councilor wants to ban "short time" in motel rooms in hopes of putting a stop to prostitution and

THIS COUNCILOR/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, December 1, 2005 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 356 P18

First female Ombudsman faces three big test cases

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

GUTIERREZ

THE FIRST FEMALE FILipino ombudsman had fighting words as she prepared to take on the job.

"I'm telling you that no

FIRST/ A8

website: www.inq7.net

Thais claim RP cheating

Thaksin can't believe SEAG results; to raise fair play in summit

THAI PM THAKSIN suspects a whiff of "Garci." PDI PHOTO

THAILAND IS TAKING the luster out of the Philippine triumphs in the Southeast Asian Games, accusing the host nation of "cheating" and prompting Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to suggest a summit meeting to discuss fair play in sports.

Robert Aventajado, chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee, dismissed the accusation.

"All countries are represented in the group of referees and in all aspects of the games," said Aventajado. "We are doing it by the book and we follow the standards."

Jaruk Areerajakaran, secretary general of Thailand's Olympic Committee, which oversees international competition, complained yesterday that the Philippines had robbed Thai competitors out of victories in several sports, including boxing, gymnastics and taekwondo.

"It is hard to win at the Games since the hosts are cheating," Jaruk told reporters, conceding that the Thai team would not be able to win its targeted 110 to 118 gold medals.

Thaksin indicated that the Philippines had made accumulating gold medals a greater priority than upholding the sporting spirit at the 23rd staging of the biennial event, leading to Thai participants losing out in unfair scoring.

"Normally, I have no time to watch sports but I often watched these Games and kept thinking 'why do results turn out to be that way?' I don't know what to say," he told reporters yesterday.

"I have been following the SEA Games closely and believe that the SEA Games should exist to help athletes lift their standards," Thaksin said. "It should not be about winning gold medals."

THAIS/ A6

DIVING into th final game of th diving competition i Trace Aquatic Center in Lo Baños, Laguna on Wednesday, Shiela Mae Perez emerges with three gold medals bringing the Philippines' SEA Games treasure trove to 58 golds EDWIN BACASMA

Davao girl SEAG's 1st triple gold medalist

By Roy Luarca

SHIELA MAE PEREZ DOESN'T dive for coins. She dives for gold.

The 5-foot-1 discovery from the Davao City pier topped the women's 1-m springboard on her final attempt yesterday to become the 23rd Southeast Asian Games' first triple-gold medalist and push the Philippines farther away from its pursuers in the medal race.

Getting a torrent of golds from wushu, bowling, wrestling, rowing, swimming, fencing, billiards, taekwondo and track and field, the Filipinos boosted their medal haul to 58 after Day 4 of the biennial meet which will run up to Dec. 5.

DAVAO/ A6

23rd SEA GAMES

Games sked today in Sports, Page A24

RP'S BEST HOPE fo the women' All-Around Gymnastics finals, Emille Crista Santos, fractures her left foot following a bad fall on Wednesday. Her coach Liliana Lonita rushes to her side while she couldn't stop the tears for the pain and the sound of hopes dashed to the ground. RYAN LIM

Tiangge, '168' eating into mall sales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RETAILERS ARE FEELING THE brunt of the economic crunch, as Filipino consumers hold back on spending in the face of the rising cost of living.

The retail business has become so poor that even well-heeled consumers are mixing in with the masses in hunting for bargains in *tiangge* or flea markets mostly run by mainland Chinese traders.

Roberto Claudio, Philippine Retailers Association vice president, told the INQUIRER that November was a "particularly terrible" month for peddlers of clothes, appliances, and food items as industry sales dropped between 15 percent and 50 percent from year-ago levels.

The tiangge business has become so big that an entire building

TIANGGE/ A8

WORLD AIDS DAY

Deadly silence shrouds HIV-AIDS in RP

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"HUSH" IS THE WORD THAT best describes the situation of Filipino children affected by HIV-AIDS.

In fact, "A Deafening Silence" is the title of the "rapid assessment study" conducted on these children and their families.

The silence that parents/persons living with HIV-AIDS (PLHs) have imposed on themselves and their children is not helping break the culture of discrimination. This silence is actually keeping many of the affected families in isolation and preventing support from reaching their world.

According to the Lunduyan Foundation, the children's rights organization that conducted the Unicef- and Ford Foundation-assisted study, the Philippines' HIV-AIDS scenario is still under a shroud of silence.

"The silence is deadly for [children affected by HIV-AIDS]," the study said. "The majority of children of PLHs do not even know that HIV is in their lives."

This is because many women with HIV-positive husbands have not submitted to testing for reasons of fear, ignorance, poverty—even denial.

Once affected by HIV-AIDS, and having become aware of their situation, parents impose si-

DEADLY/ A4

Rights activist shot dead, 2nd in 2 days

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A UNION LEADer and human rights activist, who was shot on Tuesday morning in Bangued, Abra, died in the hospital almost eight hours after the attack, police said.

Albert Terredaño, 41, a sheriff of the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board and president of the DAR Employees' Association in Abra, became the second activist to be slain in as many days. At least 72 members of left-wing groups have been reported killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001, according to the party-list group Bayan Muna.

Terredaño died at 4 p.m. Tuesday, according to Manuel Loste, national vice chair of Bayan Muna.

The victim was shot by two men riding a motorcycle on Partelo and Peñarrubia Streets in Bangued at 8:25 a.m. He was also on a motorcycle on his way to the DAR office, said Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha, spokesperson of the Cordillera Police Office.

Bangued police officer Nardo Dengwas was quoted in an Associated Press report as saying that Terredaño was walking to work when a gunman alighted from a motorcycle and shot him,

Loste said local human rights groups and activists had yet to establish a connection between the Terredaño's murder and the slaying of Jose Manegdeg III, a coordinator of the Rural Missionaries

RIGHTS/ A4

Bishop's 'delicadeza' questioned

By Christian V. Esguerra

ADD MANILA ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Rosales to the growin list of influential Church leader being courted by the beleaguere President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rosales got a P1-million dona tion from the President less tha a month after the Catholic Bish ops Conference of the Philippine (CBCP) came up with a statemen that did not call for her resigna tion, two Church insiders told the INQUIRER.

The occasion was the relaunch ing on Aug. 4 of the Church owned Radio Veritas in Makat where the President was the gues of honor, according to the source who are both senior priests.

One of the priests said Ms Ar royo had with her a check wort

BISHOPS/ A

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers. Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/12/01/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

House scraps warrant, 'invites' Garci instead

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY PAVED THE way for the appearance of former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano before the joint inquiry into the "Hello Garci" election scandal by temporarily setting aside the arrest warrant issued against him last August.

Instead of serving the warrant, Speaker Jose de Venecia and the chairs of the five investigating House committees decided to extend a formal invitation so Garcillano can "present (his) testimony on the issues raised in connection with the alleged wiretapped tapes" on Dec. 7.

"This will hasten the defining moment. That's what we want. The whole country wants him to appear and to testify," De Venecia told a press briefing yesterday.

'Act of reciprocity'

Garcillano's counsel, Eddie Tamondong, said they would withdraw a petition they filed with the Supreme Court to nullify the warrant, as an "act of reciprocity."

Tamondong accepted the letter of invitation to Garcillano signed by the chairs of the five investigating committees—public information, public order and safety, national defense and security, information and communications technology, and suffrage and electoral reforms.

"We're happy with this turn of events, especially as we have been assured that nothing would be done to embarrass the former Comelec official when he comes over and that security will be provided," said Tamondong.

He said he expected the latest development to "really move things forward" so that the nation can "hear what he has (Garcillano) to say."

"I assure the committees as well as the media that Mr. Garcillano will appear on the scheduled hearing on Dec. 7. Without being theatrical I also added that I'm willing to be detained if he does not appear and I mean that," he said.

Arrest warrant will be lifted

Rep. Emylou Santos, chair of the public information committee, explained that although the arrest warrant had not been formally lifted as that would require the concurrence of the plenary, "the moment he [Garcillano] appears, automatically we will lift the warrant of arrest."

The joint committee is issuing another subpoena to Samuel Ong, the former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director who claims to be in possession of the "mother tape" of the alleged conversations between Garcillano and the President.

"There is no warrant. However we are issuing a third subpoena and after that is frustrated, then a warrant of arrest will be issued (against Ong). What's important is (his) appearance in the committee hearings," said Rep. Teddyboy Locsin, chair of the committee on suffrage and electoral reforms.

But Ong's lawyer yesterday said they would reject any invitation to appear at the House inquiry.

'Captive of Malacañang'

"I will not accept any subpoena from the House. I'm not authorized to accept anything from the Lower House. That's a captive of Malacañang," lawyer Homobono Adaza said in a phone interview.

Adaza said that when the invitation to appear at the hearing is delivered to him, "I will tell them to look for Sammy Ong in Basilan, Tawi-Tawi or in Camiguin island."

Ong has not surfaced since June when he faced the press claiming that he had the original of the wiretapped conversations. He had rejected earlier summons to appear at the House inquiry because of threats on his life.

Adaza said they were considering the idea of Ong appearing instead in a parallel Senate inquiry. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Navy chief quits 3 months early

THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE Navy, Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon, the Navy Flag Officer in Command, is stepping down three months ahead of his scheduled retirement to give two senior Navy officials a crack at his post.

De Leon announced yesterday that he would go on terminal leave from Monday, Dec. 5, ahead of his official retirement from active service on March 22, when he would have to go under the terms of the Military Attrition Law.

"I retired early to open up more choices for my replacement. I retired so the President will have a wider choice," he said in an interview.

The most senior of those qualified to replace De Leon is Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, the Armed Forces Inspector General who headed the military fact-finding investigation into the the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal.

The five-person fact-finding board headed by Mayga probed allegations that some top military officials were involved in election cheating since their names were mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes.

The board has yet to make its findings public.

Earlier, Mayuga cleared the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of any wrongdoing when it raided on Aug. 17 an opposition safe house in San Mateo, Rizal where alleged evidence of election fraud against the administration were confiscated.

The next senior ranking Navy officer after Mayuga is Chief Naval Staff Rear Admiral George Uy.

If De Leon retires as scheduled in March, Mayuga and Uy would no longer qualify as candidates. Under the rules, those promoted in the major service commands should have at least a year left in the service.

Mayuga and Uy are retiring on Dec. 9 and Dec. 20, 2006, respectively. They belong to the Philippine Military Academy Class 1973.

De Leon himself said that if he does not step down now, Mayuga and Uy would not have a crack at the post of Navy chief.

"These (Mayuga and Uy) are very senior officers. They still have a year to go (in the service)," he said.

De Leon said he would not be taking part in the Armed Forces Board of Generals' deliberations for his replacement.

"That's not my choice," he said.
Dona Z. Pazzibugan

One in 3 Pinoys wants to leave RP, says survey

ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE FILipinos wants to move to another country and almost one quarter believe the Philippines is hopeless, according to a Pulse Asia's latest survey.

Asked whether or not they agreed with the statement, "If it were only possible, I would migrate to another country and live there," 33 percent of respondents said "Yes."

This was a sharp increase from July when only 26 percent said they would move abroad, according to the survey.

The survey also found that 23 percent of the 1,200 people polled agreed with the statement that "this country is hopeless," more than double the 11 percent that felt that way in July.

Seventy-four percent of the respondents said they expected life in the Philippines to get worse in the coming year, while 43 percent said they would be poorer this Christmas season than last year.

Pulse Asia conducted face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults over age 18 nationwide. The respondents were surveyed from Oct. 15-27.

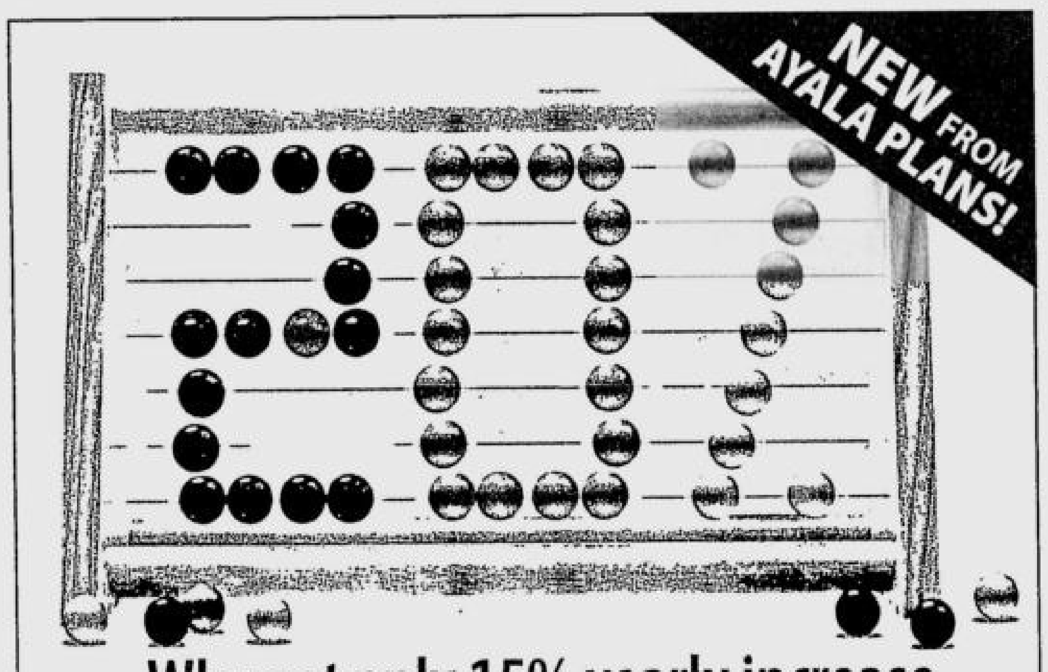
Only 16 percent of the respondents believed the coming holidays would be more prosperous than in 2004, while 40 percent thought there would be no difference.

Respondents from Mindanao were the most pessimistic about the holidays while those from the Visayas were the most optimistic.

"Will you face the coming year with hope, with apprehension, or without hope and without apprehension?" was the last of 196 items in the survey questionnaire, Pulse Asia statistical supervisor Joseph Carlom told the INQUIRER.

According to Pulse Asia, about half of those who thought the country was hopeless also wanted to migrate.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the 95-percent confidence level. The survey firm undertook the study on its own and was not commissioned by any party. *AFP, Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*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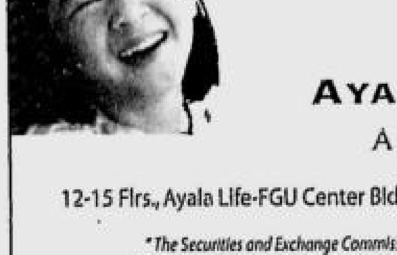

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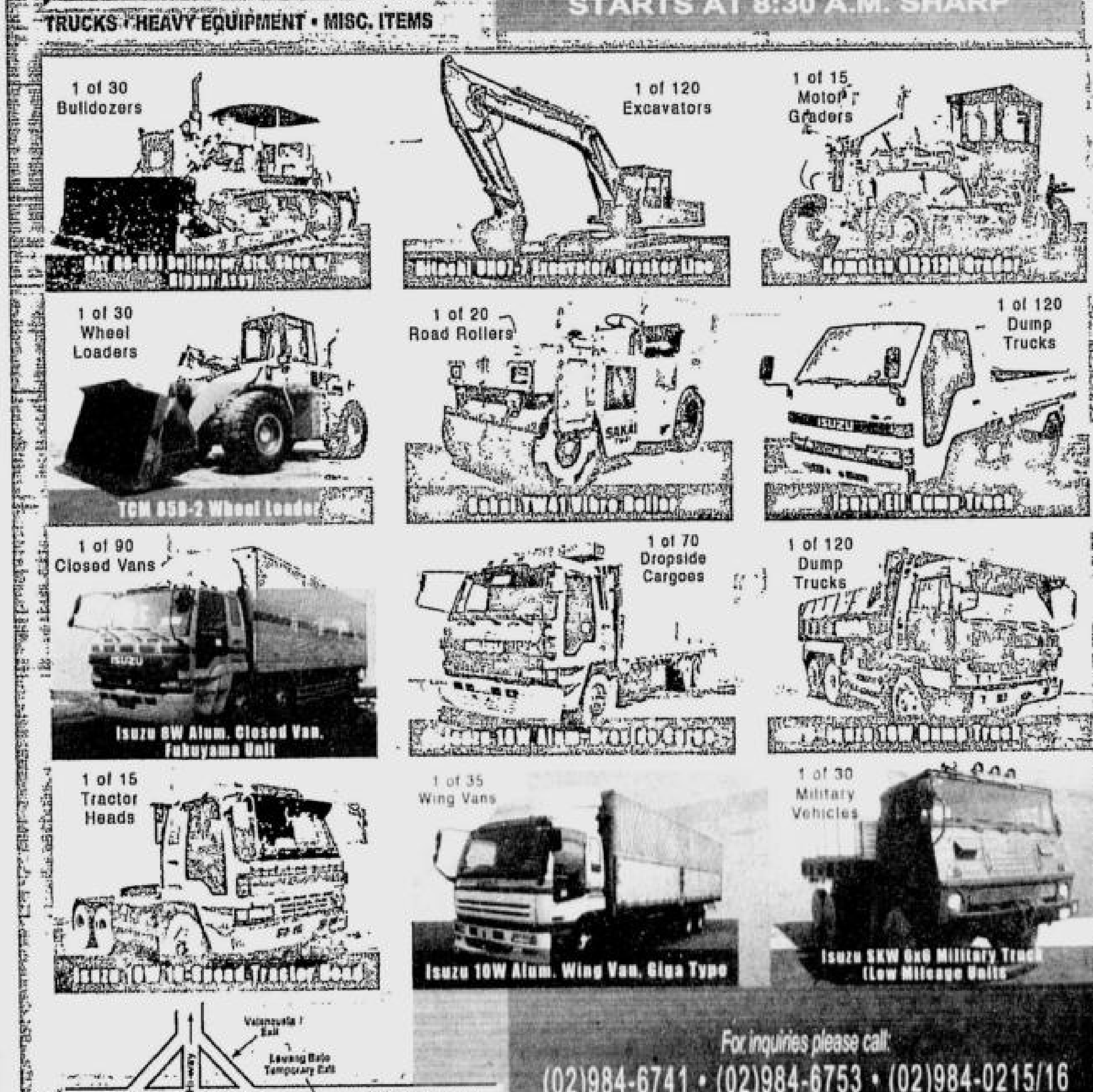

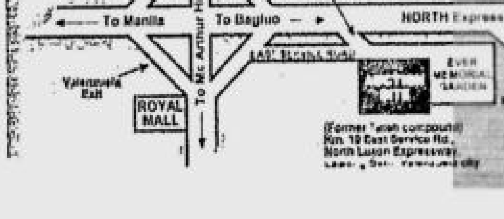

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House Cha-cha resolution headed for Senate archives

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE IS STILL IN NO mood to Cha-cha. Not through a constituent assembly and definitely not this Christmas season.

"I don't think this will prosper (in the Senate). Cha-cha cannot compete with Christmas," according to administration Sen. Ralph Recto. If at all, the House resolution could be tackled in the Senate only next year, Recto said. Congress adjourns in two weeks for the Christmas holidays.

Maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said the House resolution is headed towards the Senate archive "for a much needed rest."

Other administration and opposition senators gave a lukewarm reaction to the House-approved resolution calling on the two houses of Congress to convene as a constituent assembly to amend or revise the 1987 Charter principally to shift from the presidential to the parliamentary system of government.

If at all, they continue to prefer Charter change through a constitutional convention to be composed of elected delegates.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the House resolution would be referred to the Senate committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon but could not say when. He said the passage of the 2006 budget, not Cha-cha, is the Senate's priority.

"My position is that I am in favor of amending the Constitution but my personal preference is that we call for a (Con-con) where the elected delegates will be the one to look at the amendments to the Constitution," Drilon told reporters yesterday.

"I believe we can constitute the constitutional convention next year," Drilon added.

"It's an uphill climb in the Senate," Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said. "At the very least the matter will be heard in the committee but matters are uncertain as to the outcome," he added.

Gordon, reached by phone in India where he is attending the World Economic Forum, said he doubts whether the Senate would give priority to the Cha-cha resolution. He also doubts the motive of Malacañang and House leaders in pushing Charter change.

"I want to find out if the people really want Charter change or if it is just an agenda of people with severe questions on their mandate like Gloria (President Macapagal-Arroyo) or those who want to be Prime Minister because they cannot win elections," Gordon said.

Gordon said he is for constituent assembly but would insist that the Senate and the House vote separately, not jointly as espoused by the House.

Gordon said he would try to call a committee meeting but doubts if this can be done this month.

Administration Sen. Manuel Villar said "right now, (the Senate has) no interest" in Cha-cha and that the earliest this could be taken up would be after the budget is approved around March next year.

"We're not going to take that up during the holidays. We cannot talk about that anymore because we are about to adjourn for Christmas," Villar said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reiterated his position that the President should first resign before a credible Cha-cha can be done.

"The stalemate between the Senate and the House over the proposal will remain for as long as the President clings to her office," Pimentel said.

Pimentel issued a statement over the weekend saying most senators may agree to constituent assembly because it is cheaper and would be composed of lawmakers who are experts on the issues.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the measure is not even in the Senate priorities.

"There is no way it will be adopted by the Senate especially within the timeline desired by the House. Even if I'm alone in fighting Con-ass, I will do it although I know an overwhelming majority of senators will not support Con-ass," Lacson said.

"Con-ass is clearly designed to fast track installation of De Venecia as prime minister. It will offer a graceful exit to GMA or allow her to finish her term without the risk of another impeachment to make us a nation of fools," Lacson said.

Arroyo said he could not imagine how the Senate would act favorably on the House resolution for two reasons.

First is that it was narrowly passed by the House committee on constitutional amendments by a vote of 23-22, or by just one vote.

"It thereby passed by a hairline. Where is the overwhelming support in the House that Speaker De Venecia has monotonously harked on? It turns out to be a dud," Arroyo said.

Second is that when the report was brought to the plenary, it was approved by viva voce or voice vote.

"We are amending the Constitution which is of grave national concern, it therefore deserves the dignity of a nominal vote, not the voice vote of those who can strategically position themselves behind the 10 loudspeakers on the House floor and shout the loudest," Arroyo said. He said the House leadership did not want to take chances.

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LYN CHING-PASCUAL:

"I'm down to a *sexy size 4* and have never been happier!"

A year after childbirth and after only two months of regular treatments at Marie France, TV host Lyn Ching Pascual is at her slimmest, healthiest, one of the happiest periods of her life.

Why wouldn't she be? According to Lyn, she's been fat all her life. "I was an obese child. I weighed 140 lbs when I was only 10 years old. It was so bad it got to a point that my skin gave up on me. I had stretch marks particularly on the legs – at 10 years old! Imagine that!" For a kid, that was really a physical and emotional toll. She says she's been bullied, teased, and she could not engage in sports, which made it even harder for her to lose weight.

When she got older, Lyn went through different weight-loss methods. "Yo-yo dieting...gym (I'd workout religiously for months, then stop)...badminton (I'd play everyday, lose weight, and then stop)...it even got to a point when I became bulimic," confesses Lyn. "And I was on the verge of anorexia because I already refused to eat. I was at my thinnest then: 111 lbs. But I looked sick. I looked really, really sick: dry skin...I wasn't moving too much because I was always tired...I can't breathe well...I had a lot of problems at that time. Plus, I really love eating food! That's why it's so hard for me to go on a diet."

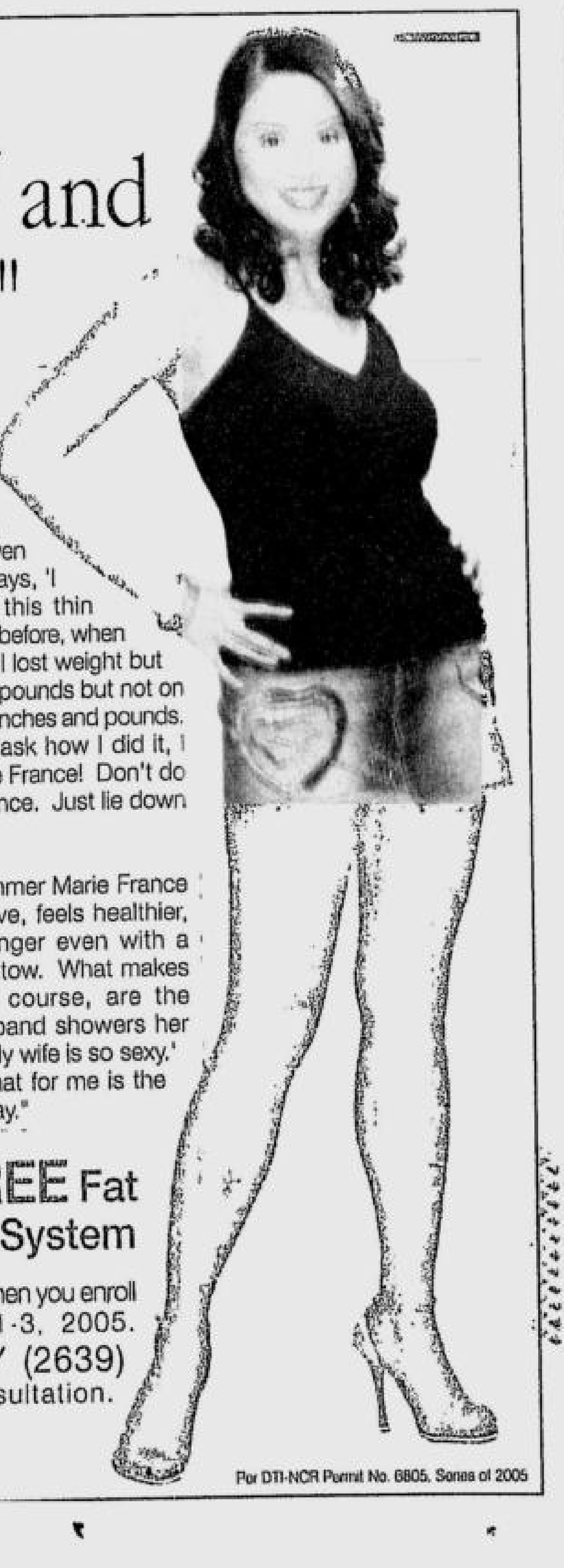
That's why she couldn't be happier when she enrolled at Marie France. "I lost a lot of weight even if I still overeat. I actually have a sweet tooth so I eat 2 bags of caramel popcorn everyday – and I never miss a day. I'm like, Marie France is making sure that I get thin anyway, so I really don't watch what I eat. So I'm really surprised with the result of my Marie France treatments. And I'm very happy because I can still eat whatever I want!"

She adds, "Their treatments are very easy, very fast, very safe, and very convenient for me. After the show *(Unang Hirit)*, which ends at around 8:30-8:45 a.m., I go straight to Marie France. They open early so there's really no problem regarding schedule. It's very convenient because whatever I wear when I arrive, I can also wear when I leave. I don't have to take a bath or even take some time to rest after a really, really heavy workout. There's no workout. It's really convenient for nursing mothers like me because I can immediately hold my baby when I get home (which is only about 10 minutes from the center) since I'm not tired. At Marie France, you just lie down and everyone else has to work for you. Where can you get that kind of deal? Literally, you just lie down and you lose weight. What more can I ask for!"

Indeed, Lyn is a picture of true satisfaction. With a figure that has transformed from, according to her, "a huge American size 10" to "a sexy size 4"...who wouldn't be? "Now I can wear sexy clothes!" she exclaims. "It feels good to know that you can really lose weight if you want to."

Now everybody's asking how she did it. "Everyday I get compliments. People from the audience, people from the show, even a close friend of mine says, 'I have never seen you this thin before.' That's because before, when I used to workout a lot, I lost weight but I looked bulky. I lost on pounds but not on inches. Now I lose both inches and pounds. And whenever people ask how I did it, I always tell them – Marie France! Don't do anything, just Marie France. Just lie down at Marie France!"

With her new, slimmer Marie France body, she's more active, feels healthier, and looks much younger even with a 1-year old daughter in tow. What makes her really happy, of course, are the compliments her husband showers her everyday. "He says, 'My wife is so sexy.' Next to 'I love you', that for me is the best thing I hear him say."



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Deadly silence shrouds HIV-AIDS in RP

From page A1

lence, the study said. Even the children perpetuate the silence.

Faceless

"It is imperative that a face be put on the cause" of the Filipino children affected by HIV-AIDS, the study said. In this way, it said, more people would be encouraged to help create a better life for these kids.

The call was made during a recent Unicef seminar to encourage PLHs to speak on behalf of children affected by HIV-AIDS. No one came forward. *(See some of the children's stories in the column "Human Face" in the Opinion section.)*

Of the 95 children who were the subjects of the study, three—aged 6 to 8—were infected with HIV but did not know it. Two of the three are siblings. (Children may acquire the virus while they are in their mother's womb.)

In the study, the phrase "children affected by HIV" refers to those below 20 who have parents living with HIV or to children who are themselves infected.

Lunduyan executive officer Irene F. Fellizar said the research group was able to track down 375 HIV-affected children but only 95 agreed to answer questions.

Parental consent was needed before the children (52 boys and 43 girls) could be interviewed.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SENTIMENTS ON AIDS: Bamboo pipes announce the stand of the Ifugao elders on the presence of the dreaded disease in their village. Being a popular tourist destination, Ifugao is vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases.

Research subjects

The parents of the subjects made it clear to the research team that as parents, they had the right to decide whether or not to reveal information on HIV-AIDS to their children.

Thus, the researchers did not make specific reference to HIV and AIDS during their sessions with the kids.

The questions dwelled mainly on the children's economic situation, health and nutrition, shelter, education and psycho-social issues.

Of the 95, 40 were orphans who had lost one or both parents to HIV-AIDS. Some children with living parents were in the care of relatives. None of the orphans lived in an institution.

The children were mainly from poor families. Because the PLHs had no access to venues for alternative skills that could help them land higher-paying jobs, their earning capacity had been greatly reduced and their children were affected.

Poor health had barred many PLHs from work they were trained for in the past. Others needed hospital care. The caregivers of the children were not always able to provide a better life for them.

Two of the three HIV-infected children in the study had shared their mother's adult-dose antiretroviral (ARV) drug.

When their mother died, they continued the adult dosage because they had no access to a pediatric formulation. As a consequence of the unsightly rashes and blisters caused by the ARV, they refused to go to school.

Fifteen percent of the affected children of school age were not in school. Almost half of them were sickly. Those with ailing parents had to take care of their younger siblings, or the parents themselves.

Double-edged sword

The study concluded that many children of PLHs indeed had to face many "life-shattering changes"—from caring for an ailing parent, to losing one, to being transferred to another family.

It said the preceding silence made the changes more stressful for the children.

By not informing their children about their health condition, the PLHs think they can let the kids live as normally as possible, the study said.

"But this is a double-edged sword," it said, adding that when the life-shattering changes came, the children who had been kept in the dark were suddenly forced to grow up fast and take on adult roles.

The burden is too sudden and too heavy, the study said.

AIDS at MTV Summit today

The 5-year Global Campaign on Children and AIDS was launched in October by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Unicef, UNAIDS and partner organizations.

The Philippines' campaign for children and HIV AIDS will be launched today, World AIDS Day, at the MTV Music Summit.

"The concert will allow us to reach 50,000 individuals, mostly young people, with life-saving messages served with music and entertainment," Unicef country representative Nicholas Alipui said.

Alipui said an estimated 39,000 children in South Asia and the Pacific were living with AIDS, and some 9,100 had died of it.

There are 12,700 new infections among children under 15, he said.

Alipui noted that the number of PLHs in the Philippines was still low.

Curb stigma

"This gives us the extraordinary opportunity to act at once and to support those already affected, and to prevent more children, adolescents and their parents from being infected. We must [also] curb the stigma and discrimination," he said.

Global funding for AIDS was an estimated $6.1 billion in 2004.

The Philippines' share for the next three years is only $3.5 million. Funding is being poured into Africa, where the AIDS pandemic has reached staggering proportions.

Lawmakers seek gov't subsidy in fight vs AIDS

By Philip C. Tubeza

ON THE EVE OF WORLD AIDS DAY, MILItant lawmakers led by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo filed a bill that would help almost 10,000 afflicted Filipinos acquire antiretroviral drugs (ARVs).

Ocampo and his colleagues filed House Bill No. 4357, which seeks to improve the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act by, among other things, outsourcing low-priced ARVs.

"[ARVs], currently produced by various countries at low-priced generic versions, are expensive and scarce in the Philippines. Yet countries like Cuba and Thailand have proven that political will and perseverance enable ways to supply citizens with much needed medications," Ocampo said.

The bill also seeks government subsidy for local pharmaceutical firms engaged in research and development and the production of generic antiretroviral and traditional drugs against AIDS.

Ocampo said that according to the latest figures, at least 9,400 Filipinos had reported themselves as living with AIDS or HIV.

He said that while the figure was small compared to other countries, the United Nations Development Program had warned that this might increase because of illegal drug use "involving shared needles."

Ocampo also warned that the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS had noted an "increasing trend" in the number of reported cases in the country and in the number of overseas Filipino workers living with HIV.

He said HB 4357 would address the "two major impediments" to proper AIDS health care in the country—the lack of clear and appropriate information, and the absence of devoted resources for the full implementation of the Philippine AIDS Prevention Act.

The bill blames the Catholic Church's opposition to artificial contraception for the lack of adequate public knowledge on means to counter AIDS.

To help raise AIDS awareness, Ocampo and the co-authors of HB 4537—Bayan Muna Representatives Joel Virador and Teddy Casiño, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, and Anakpawis Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano—distributed red ribbons in the House yesterday.

"These red ribbons are a silent reminder of our role in stopping AIDS in our country, and in taking good care of Filipinos who are afflicted by it," Ocampo said.

Rights activist shot dead . . .

From page A1

of the Philippines in the Ilocos and the Cordillera, in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur.

Cordillera rights group

The AP report said Terredaño belonged to the Abra Human Rights Advocates and Dinteg, or the Cordillera Indigenous Peoples Legal Center, two militant groups campaigning for human rights in the upland region of the northern Philippines.

He was once a staff member of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

The report quoted the Rev. Jordan Rivas, Terredaño's colleague in the Abra Human Rights Advocates, as saying that the activist had earlier told friends that he was under surveillance by men he recognized to be policemen.

Over the last few months, Terredaño also had organized a local chapter of Courage, an organization of government employees that has been outspoken in criticizing the Arroyo administration, it said.

Another colleague of Terredano's, Jude Bago, was quoted in the report as saying that while police had no suspects, "we view this as a trend that people who are critical of programs of the government are being killed."

Land cases?

"The attacks are [perpetrated] by unidentified gunmen, and the victims are all activists and militants [in northern Luzon], but we cannot still make a direct connection although we have our suspicions," Loste said.

Pumecha said reports from Abra did not describe Terredaño's "political affiliation," so investigators are focusing their attention on his office's land cases.

Military authorities often refer to left-wing groups as fronts for communist rebels, who have waged an insurgency since the late 1960s.

Last month, a member of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan was killed in Angeles City in Pampanga.

Indignation rally

A trade union leader was also shot dead in nearby Tarlac by unknown gunmen after leading a strike at a sugar mill owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

The Cordillera Human Rights Organization scheduled an indignation rally for Wednesday night to protest Manegdeg's murder.

His body lies at the Church of the Resurrection on Magsaysay Avenue here. *With AP, AFP*

This councilor wants to ban . . .

From page A1

other illicit sexual activities in Quezon City.

Short-time rates in motels "promote promiscuity and illicit sexual activities among the populace, particularly minors," Councilor Edcel Lagman Jr. said.

They also offer unfair competition to legitimate hotels, according to the councilor.

Lagman has proposed an ordinance penalizing hotels, motels, apartelles and other establishments that lease rooms for less than 12 hours, or on "short-time" basis to help "improve public morals."

Under Lagman's proposal, violators face suspension of their business license for at least two months, or a fine of P4,000, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Second-time offenders would be suspended for four months and/or fined P5,000, while third-time offenders would be fined P5,000 and their license cancelled.

To enforce the ordinance, the business permits and licensing office would have to coordinate with the city's department of public order and safety and police on the spot inspection of hotels, motels and similar establishments.

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 29 issue, the editorial in the Opinion section on Page A10—"Will Garci talk"—misstated the year in which the last presidential election was held. The presidential election was held in May 2004—not 2005.

* * *

IN THE same issue, a photo caption in Across the Nation on Page A14 misstated the type of vehicle that figured in an accident on the South Luzon Expressway on Nov. 28. The vehicle was a bulk carrier—not a cement mixer.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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"I take no offense on being typecast as a nanny. But I do take offense that the educated people of the world have somehow degraded the true sense and meaning of what a nanny is. Let me tell you what she is. She is someone who gives more than she takes. She is someone you trust to look afterthe very people most precious to you, your child, the elderly and yourself. She is the one who has made a living out of caring and loving other people. So those who have typecast us as nannies, thank you. It is a testament to the loving and caring culture of the Filipino people. And for that I am Forever proud and grateful of my roots and culture."

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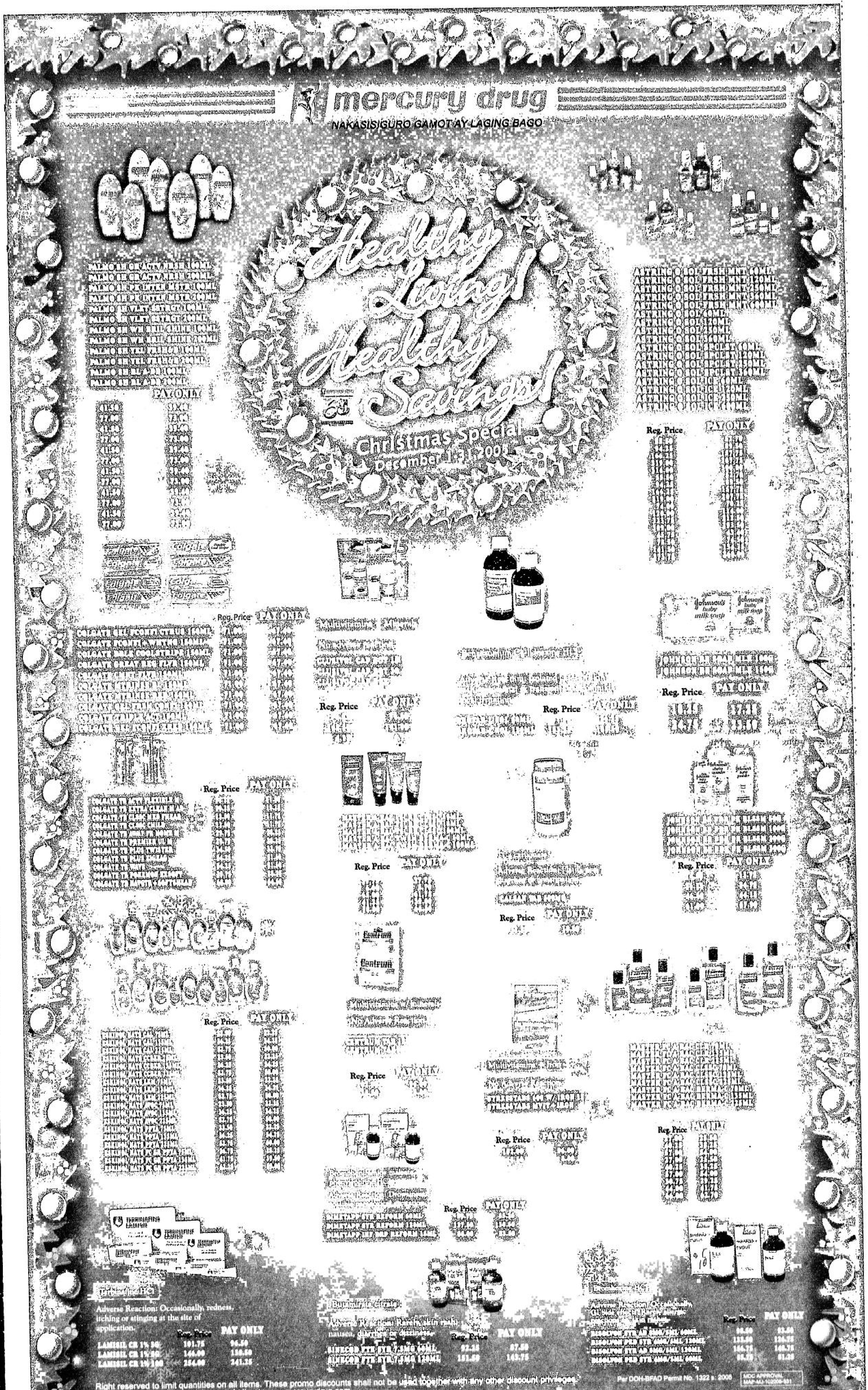

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'That is strange behavior for a head of state,' says Miriam

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-Santiago finds a bit odd Thai Prime Minister Thaksin's questions on the fairness of officiating in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"That is a strange behavior for a head of state, who normally is perceived to be the sole spokesperson of his country and is therefore tasked with the highest standards of diplomacy," said Santiago, chair of the committee on foreign relations.

(See story on Page A1.)

"The remarks tend to cast aspersion on the integrity of the Games without providing any clue as to the basis either in fact or in law of the comments. So it only sours relationship for no palpable reason," said the administration senator.

A threat

Santiago said that if Mr. Thaksin doubted the "integrity of the Games," he should order an investigation by his own proper agencies, and then "formally bring it up in the proper forum."

"But as it is right now, he is delivering nothing more than a threat. And this behavior departs starkly from normal behavior of heads of state."

Santiago, however, saw no reason yet for the Department of Foreign Affairs to take a formal action on the matter "because that would be to dignify the unsubstantiated."

"But there should be formal inquiries made on the part of the DFA with the Thai Embassy on what seems to be the basis for these remarks so that we can avail [ourselves] of remedies if any exists," she said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, vice chair of the committee on sports, said: "Maybe, he's just quite frustrated with his country's performance, and I think our athletes gave their best. They didn't want to lose in front of their countrymen. That's why they tried very hard to win golds for the country."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, said it was all right for Mr. Thaksin to raise the issue.

"It's all right for Prime Minister Thaksin to do that because it's also in our national interest that the issue is clarified. And we don't want it said the medals that the athletes won are the product of manipulated scoring or things of that kind," he said.

"In short, even without waiting for Thaksin to raise that issue, I think our own officials should [on] their own initiative try to verify if there's any ground to doubt the results of the Games here. It's not good for the nation to be suspected of having rendered hometown decisions in favor of our athletes."

Show proof

House Minority leader Francis Escudero said Thaksin should show proof of cheating.

"I don't think this should be an issue unless he has concrete basis to support his allegation other than the fact that we are leading," Escudero said.

"More important than the medals is the friendship and sportsmanship developed and shown in the competition," he said.

Thais claim RP cheating; Filipinos decry allegation

From page A1

While Thaksin stopped short of naming the Philippines, he said he was disappointed by the Games and might raise the medal issue on the sidelines of the December summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Malaysia.

Summit or else ...

"We may have to have an unofficial summit among (Southeast Asian) leaders to discuss how to uplift the spirit and standard of the games, otherwise the SEA Games will no longer be of interest for the region," he said.

It wasn't clear if he was serious about such a meeting. The 10-member Asean meets regularly on economic and security issues.

Hosting to win is not nice

"If the SEA Games continue to be like this, then it will become less popular because they have put a priority for medals over athletic spirit," the Thai prime minister said.

"It's normal to win or lose. But it's not nice if we host such Games and do this to other countries. In sports, I believe we have to develop athletic skills and good sportsmanship. We should not focus only on medals and forget about being good sports," he said.

Thaksin said several competitors at these Games were not up to par, but win honors anyway because "the organizer aims only to favor their own athletes."

But the Thai leader said it was unlikely that Thailand would lodge any official protest against the results.

In an official statement, the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee said that while the Philippines was hosting the games, the officiating for each contest was conducted by the Southeast Asian Games Federation and its pool of international referees and judges.

VIP CHEER LEADER. President Arroyo could be the lucky charm as well for the Filipino athletes competing in the wushu finals at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym. The RP team wins three golds out of six events.

LYN RILLON

"There are strict regulations governing the conduct of the competitions, as laid down by the various world sports organizations, and when contests are in progress, it is our understanding that no judge or referee from the competing athlete or team's nation participates," the statement said.

Can't be rigged

Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Games and Amusement Board and ambassador to the SEA Games, told the INQUIRER website INQ7.net that Thaksin should not question the Philippine performance.

"Measurable sports like running, swimming, fencing and water polo cannot be rigged as insinuated by the Thai Prime Minister," said Buhain.

He said the Philippines, along with the other Southeast Asian countries, did not question Vietnam's winning haul of 150 gold medals when the emerging economic tiger hosted the previous SEA Games in 2003.

Historically, major host countries—except the Philippines—have won the overall championship in the biennial event that began in 1959 as the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games.

The Philippines lost the medal race as host in 1981 and 1991, but this time is surging on top of the gold medal standings.

During a visit last month to inspect the Philippine venues, Chaidayak Siriwat, Thai Olympic Committee chief, had expressed apprehension about Thailand's chances in the fight for the overall SEA Games crown.

He said that top Thai players were skipping the Philippine event and were preparing instead for the Asian Indoor Games which Thailand was hosting next month.

Non-Filipino referees

Filipino veteran jin Donald David Geisler, who defeated Thailand's Patiwat Thongsalap in a close 7-6 encounter in the men's lightweight finals, said he could not fault the referees.

"I gave my best and I won the match fair and square," Geisler said. "I think they are just bitter because I beat one of their top bets."

"It's hard to accept defeat especially if it's your best player losing to the opponent," Philippine coach Jobet Morales said. "There were also bad calls, but we couldn't do anything about them because the referee's decision is final."

International referee Cesar Mateo, the referee coordinator for the taekwondo tournament, said that all the referees were abiding by their oaths to officiate fairly.

"It's hard to say that the competitions are rigged because whenever the Filipinos are playing, all the referees in the field are non-Filipino, and that goes for the other countries," Mateo said.

Moral booster

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said he was certain that all the athletes were doing their best and that they were judged accordingly.

"We see how our athletes trained for the event. They went into intensive training, they have the will and determination and they were cheered by our countrymen. I believe all of these put together are responsible for producing the results that we are seeing right now," Bunye said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has been attending some of the events to hand medals to winners in a bid to raise the morale of the Philippine athletes.

Games a boost to diplomacy?

Malacañang, engulfed in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal and allegations of illegal gambling payoffs for months, has also urged its political opponents to cast aside polemics at least for the duration of the games.

Ironically, in the light of these suspicions, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano on Tuesday said the SEA Games gave a boost to Philippine diplomacy with its neighbors.

"While the SEA Games brought in a lot of foreign guests, it is not really tourism in the traditional sense, the importance of this is the strengthening of ties and friendships among the Southeast Asian neighbors," he said in Bacolod City.

"This is a very important activity of Southeast Asia to make sure that, as each country develops, we will not forget each other, we are brothers in some way," he said.

Durano was in Bacolod with Ms Arroyo on Tuesday to cheer the athletes competing in the biennial meet there.

He said that in the different SEA Games venues in the country, "the Filipino spirit and enthusiasm is so high especially because the Filipino athletes are winning."

"It's a good way to end the year with the entire country and the entire Southeast Asian nations coming together because of this," Durano said.

National unity

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said unity shown by the people in the games should go beyond the SEA Games. He said he hoped that this would also become the "takeoff point for national unity." *With reports from AP, AFP, Asia News Network-The Nation newspaper of Thailand, Karla Tricia Magno, Christine O. Avendaño, Volt Contreras, TJ Burgonio and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Davao girl SEAG's 1st triple gold medalist

From page A1

With still five days of action left, the Filipinos have already surpassed their 49-gold output in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG and are on track of meeting their target of from 100-120 golds and their first overall championship.

As of 10:30 p.m. yesterday, the Philippines also has 38 silvers and 44 bronzes, way ahead of Vietnam with a 39-33-40 tally and Thailand, 29-45-51.

The wushu artists added five golds to the medal coffers through Edward Folayang in men's sanshou 70 kg, Rene Catalan in men's sanshou 48 kg, Vicky Ting in women's jianshu, Aida Yang in women's daoshu and Rhea May Rifani in women's sanshou 52 kg.

That output was matched by the wrestlers, with Gemma Silverio topping the women's 59kg category, Marcus Valda the men's 96kg, and Cristina Villanueva the women's 51kg.

The rowers contributed two through Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and Jose Rodriguez in the men's coxless pair and Tolentino again in the men's single scull at the La Mesa Dam.

US-trained Miguel Molina accomplished a golden double in swimming by ruling the men's 200m individual medley.

Bowlers CJ Suarez and Ernesto "Jonee" Gatchalian snared the gold in men's doubles at the expense of the Malaysians, 2754-2743, at the Pearl Bowling Center in Parañaque.

John Paul Lizardo kicked his way to the taekwondo gold in the finweight division.

Late last night, the Philippine fencing team of actor Richard Gomez, Amando Bernal, Avelino Victorino Jr. and Wilfredo Viscayno Jr., clinched the men's epee gold at the expense of Thailand, 45-42.

Thwarting their rival Thais, Ernie Candelario, Kashlis Perona, Jimar Aing and Julius Nieras topped the men's 4x400m relay.

The tale of woe belonged to Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista. A day after narrowly losing the men's 10,000m gold, Buenavista topped the 5,000m only to be disqualified for deliberately blocking Thai Boonthung Srisung as they sprinted to the finish.

Srisung thus emerged champion and booted out the Filipinos from the battle for track and field supremacy.

Humble past

With only eight golds in athletics thus far, the Filipinos can't catch up with the Thais, who boast 11 golds, even if they sweep the two concluding marathon events on Dec. 4.

"It's not that I'm denying my humble past, but I'm not a coin diver as being reported," the 19-year-old Perez said in Filipino. "We live by the pier that's why we usually swim there when we were kids, but the ones who dive for the coins were the Badjaos."

Perez, who has been granted a college scholarship by Trace Computer College, earlier topped the women's 3-meter springboard synchronized and the 3-m individual events at the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños, Laguna.

Alex Pagulayan continued his winning ways by teaming up with Dennis Orcollo to claim the gold in 9-ball doubles. They beat the Vietnamese, 11-5.

Over in Bacolod City, the Filipinos kept their immaculate slate with light flyweight Genebert Basadre besting Tun Dansamiak.

Team Philippines has sent 11 boxers, including its five-woman team, into the next round heading to the semifinals.

The Filipino batters continued to smother the opposition with a 17-0 dumping of Burma (Myanmar) at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

It was the third straight win for the Filipinos in baseball, which is being staged for the first time in the biennial meet. They gun for win No. 4 against the Thais tomorrow.

In softball, the Philippines opened its campaign with a 4-0 thumping of arch rival Indonesians at the Rosario Sports Center in Pasig.

The Indons beat the RP Blu Boys for the crown when the event was last calendared in the Jakarta SEAG.

The Philippines hopes to end a 10-year-gold medal drought when weightlifting competitions get going today at the Convention Plaza Hotel in Bacolod.

Teenager Jomar Napoloreyes will compete in the men's 69kg, Emily Rosas in the women's 48kg and Hidilyn Diaz in the women's 58kg to spearhead the Filipinos' campaign.

Thailand, led by 2004 Athens Olympic 75-kg gold medalist Pawina Thongsuk, is eyeing at least five of the 10 golds staked in the event.

Muay thai action also begins today at the GSIS main office in Pasay City with world champion Ronald Claro starring in the men's lightweight division (45-48kg) and Zaidi Laruan in the men's flyweight (48-51kg) division.

Filipino-American players powered the Philippines to victories at the start of the beach volleyball tournament at the University of St. La Salle sandcourts in Bacolod.

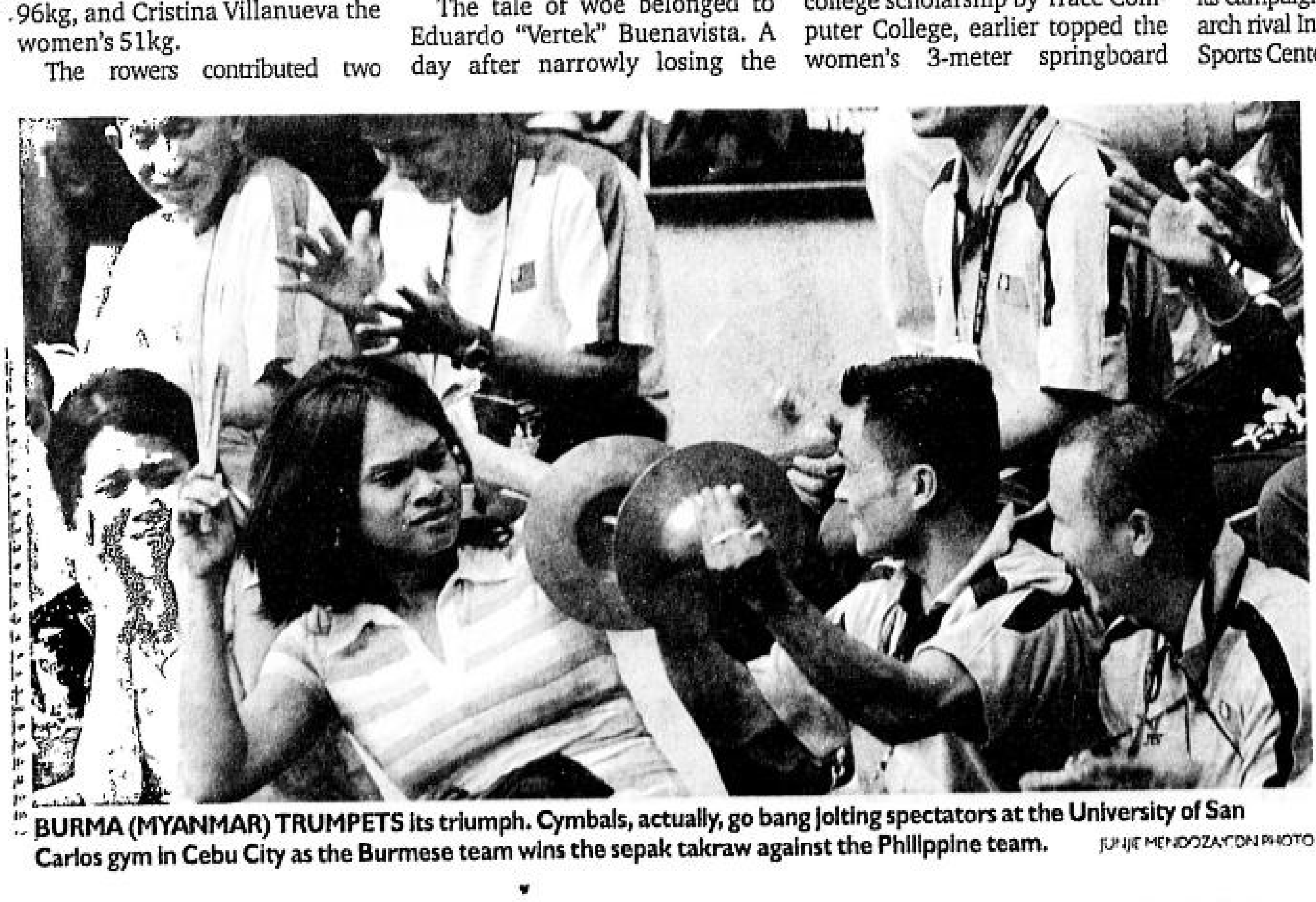
The women's team B of Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua trampled Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Tiep and Mai Thi Hoa, 21-12, 21-19, while Chad Mowrey and Justin Schnor of RP men's team B, subdued Mohammad Nasiruddin Mohd Hashim and Lee Kwong Tung of Malaysia, 21-15, 10-21, 15-10.

Their victories made up for the losses absorbed by Bacoleña Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena of RP-A to defending champion Kamoltip Kulna and Jarunee Sannok, 21-10, 21-14, of Thailand in the women's division.

Light schedule today

Pulupandan's Rhovyl Verayo and Parley Tupaz of RP men's A also bowed to Indonesia-B of Andy Ardiyansah and Supriadi, 21-16, 21-14.

It will be a relatively light schedule today with 35 golds, including eight in swimming, up for grabs.



BURMA (MYANMAR) TRUMPETS its triumph. Cymbals, actually, go bang jolting spectators at the University of San Carlos gym in Cebu City as the Burmese team wins the sepak takraw against the Philippine team.

JUNJIE MENDOZA/CDN PHOTO

ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM, Thai Bancha Khamthong wears a full regalia of the native dress during the beach volleyball contest against Team Philippines held at the University of La Salle in Bacolod City.

REM ZAMORA

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Palace wants to check detention of GIs in rape case

By Volt Contreras

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS requested the US Embassy for another look at the six American Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman, this time to check on their detention conditions, a Malacañang official disclosed yesterday.

"Where and how are they being held in custody? Are they behind bars? Playing golf? In confined quarters?" asked Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Paredes last saw the six suspects on Nov. 10 in a conference room at the embassy, which has had custody of the soldiers since the alleged rape took place at the Subic Freeport on Nov. 1.

"Normally in the military, (custody) means you are restricted to quarters. You can't leave the building without an escort," Paredes told reporters.

He said he made the "verbal request" two weeks ago to the embassy's political officer Paul O'Friel, and that he intends to bring along either Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo or Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to see the suspects.

Paredes noted it has been two weeks since the Philippines demanded custody of the soldiers but the embassy has not yet responded. He surmised it was waiting for the results of the preliminary investigation being conducted by the Olongapo City prosecutor.

Meanwhile, the alleged rape victim's lawyer said yesterday that the counter-affidavits submitted by five of the six soldiers contained information that could pin them down.

"The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and Scotland Yard taught us that all we need is an admission that the alleged perpetrators and victims were together and that there was sexual contact, however rationalized, to lead to an ultimate confession or conviction," lawyer Katrina Legarda told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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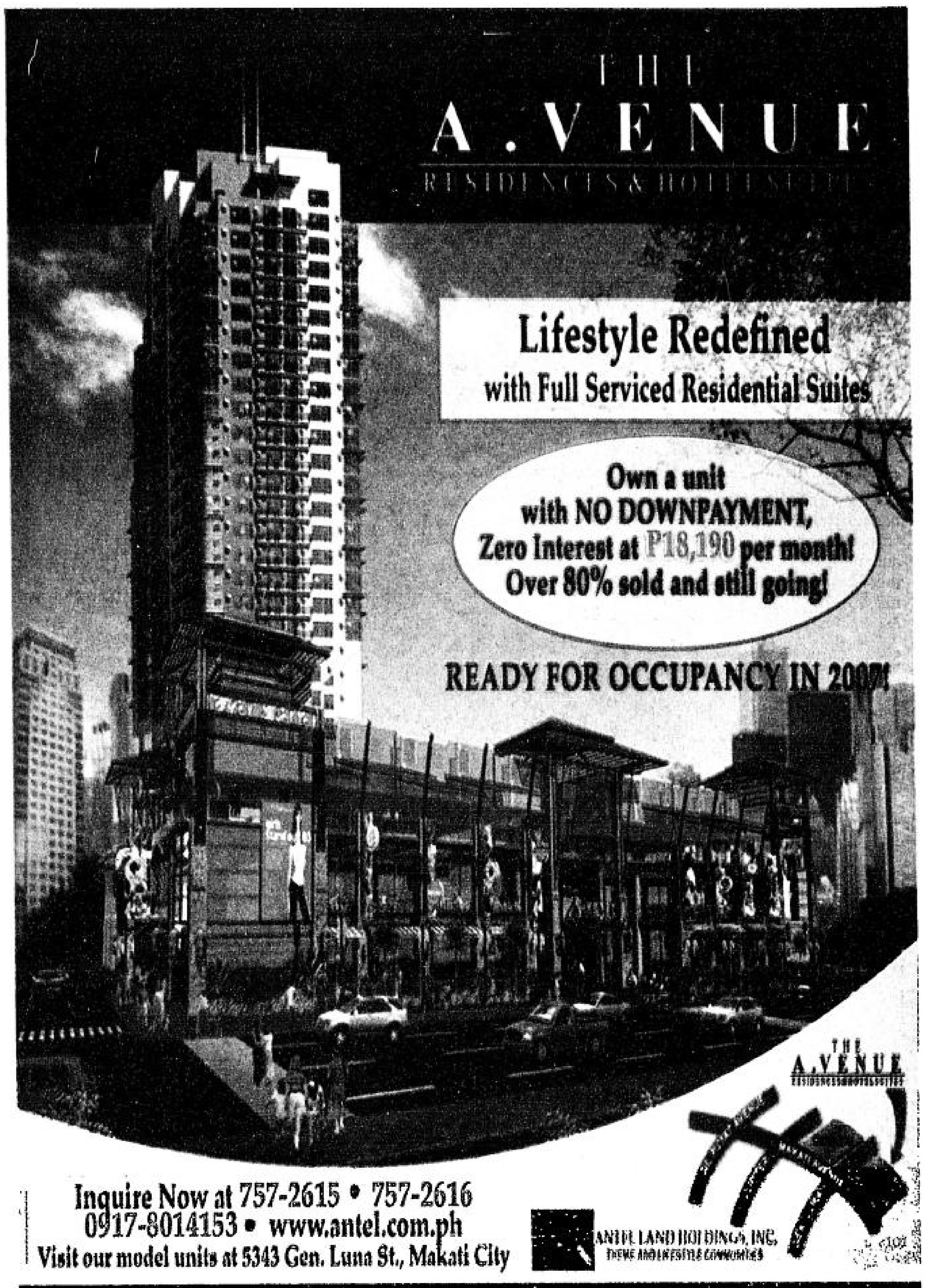

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First female Ombudsman faces three big test cases

From page A1

one can approach me and bribe me, and tell me that for a disposition, there would be an exchange," Merceditas Gutierrez, the chief legal counsel of President Macapagal-Arroyo since 2004, said yesterday at a news conference in Malacañang.

Gutierrez, 56, begins to serve as Ombudsman today. She replaces Simeon Marcelo, who quit in September allegedly for health reasons and whose resignation took effect yesterday.

A native of Samal, Bataan, and a graduate of the Ateneo Law School, Gutierrez bested 13 other nominees to the post, including Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta and Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez.

Gutierrez expressed delight at her appointment, which she said she learned about when the President congratulated her during a Cabinet meeting late yesterday morning.

She surmised that Ms Arroyo made the decision after considering her "performance and character," specifically how she performed as chief presidential legal counsel and acting justice secretary.

Challenges: 3 big cases

"I think my track record will speak for me—that I was always independent and always fair. And I will always be independent, and I will be fair in the discharge of my duties as Ombudsman," she said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon dared Gutierrez to show her mettle by acting "immediately" on pending cases.

"I have known her to be a competent, dedicated and honest public servant," Drilon said of Gutierrez, who was part of his legal staff when he served as justice secretary during the Aquino administration.

"However, there are challenges ahead of her. She must be able to show that the fight against corruption is taken seriously," he said.

Drilon said these challenges included three "big cases" involving the President, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, and the Commission on Elections.

He was referring to the plunder charge filed against Ms Arroyo for the alleged misuse of the P728-million fertilizer fund, the bribery charge filed by then Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez against Perez, and a case filed against the Comelec for the questionable P1.3-billion contract with Mega-Pacific eSolutions for automated polls.

"These are three cases against which [Gutierrez's] political will to fight corruption will be tested. These are three critical cases that she will have to act on immediately ..." Drilon told reporters.

He said Gutierrez should act "without fear or favor."

"The people will be watching how she will react insofar as these cases are concerned, which are now pending at the Office of the Ombudsman," he said.

Prompt action

On questions on how she intended to act on Perez's case, Gutierrez said she still had to find out whether he had pending cases at her new office.

But she promised to act promptly on all pending cases.

"A mandate of the Ombudsman is to act promptly on cases against high-ranking officials," she said, adding that this likewise applied to cases involving influential persons.

She also said she was not one to succumb to political pressure.

Commenting on reports on the alleged tendency of the President's husband to meddle in certain cases, Gutierrez said Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had never told her to intervene in any case.

"I will decide based on evidence presented before us, and that's it," she said.

On her being the first woman to serve as Ombudsman, Gutierrez said she was also the first woman to serve as acting justice secretary.

She said there was more work at the DOJ.

Asked how she intended to cope with the job that forced her predecessor, Marcelo, to give it up, Gutierrez said: "I think I should maintain healthy living by having enough rest, handling the work well, and praying to God for strength."

Advice

Indeed, Gutierrez said, Marcelo had given her advice on how to handle her new job.

He told her not to emulate his way of being too much of a hands-on person, such as trying to read all the papers in the file, because it would be just impossible, she said.

She also said her office was preparing to hire 400 more people to help work on the cases there.

Before she became the President's chief legal counsel, Gutierrez served as acting justice secretary from November 2002 to January 2003, and again from December 2003 to August 2004.

At the Department of Justice, she served as undersecretary, assistant chief state counsel, senior state counsel, state counsel, and legal staff.

She also chaired the Presidential Human Rights Committee and the Special Committee for the Protection of Children.

Welcome development

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Gutierrez's appointment as the new Ombudsman was a welcome development.

Villa-Ignacio said in a phone interview that Gutierrez had enough experience in law and in government affairs to efficiently run the office.

He also said Office of the Ombudsman personnel would gladly work with her.

Former Manila City Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano, a member of former President Joseph Estrada's team handling his plunder and perjury cases before the Sandiganbayan Special Division, said he expected Gutierrez "to apply the law with an even hand, fearing neither friend nor foe in the discharge of her constitutional duties."

Flaminiano urged everyone to give Gutierrez a chance to prove her worth.

Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva said Gutierrez should not hesitate to go after influential members of the government, lest she end up as a "deodorizer" of the administration.

"We give Ms Gutierrez the benefit of the doubt. But to get our absolute support, she should show independence and transparency. She should go after the big fish, like Big Mike's minions," Villanueva said, adding:

"If she's after reforms in the Ombudsman and a good legacy, she should show that she is only after the truth and accountability, and not to please Ms Arroyo."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Gutierrez was a "good choice" to replace Marcelo.

"She has an impressive record. She has proven her competence and achievements. She has shown her loyalty to the President, her dedication and passion for her work," Nograles said.

Last ceremony

On Tuesday, Marcelo led his last flag-raising ceremony at the Office of the Ombudsman.

He urged the employees, some of whom were weeping, to support his successor.

Evelyn Baliton, spokesperson of the Office of the Ombudsman, said Marcelo was an example of the right work ethic, which many had tried to emulate.

Baliton said Marcelo would be missed.

Even his opponents had nothing but praise for Marcelo.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who is on Estrada's team, described Marcelo as a good guy who became ill because of the sleepless nights he had to endure working for "the godmother of this criminal syndicate."

"One cannot serve the godmother and remain healthy," Saguisag said, adding that Marcelo resigned because he was a man of conscience. *With reports from Nelson F. Flores and Philip C. Tubeza*

Tiangge, '168' eating into mall sales

From page A1

in Divisoria, Manila, "the 168," was erected just for tiangge operators.

A top executive of a major Philippine shopping mall operator estimated that the 168 has become so big that its retail sales alone could be worth at least P2 billion a year or equivalent to the turnover of a mid-size shopping mall.

"But that is just the retail side, 168's wholesale business is exponentially bigger," the mall executive said.

Claudio said the Philippine Retailers Association had already warned the government against the proliferation of *tiangge* buildings similar to the 168 such as the Hong Kong Sun Plaza on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

"Consumer confidence is very low right now. Filipinos are holding back on their purchases until the economy is straightened out," Claudio said. "Filipinos are saving whatever they have because of the high cost of oil and limited income opportunities."

Buying basics only

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said: "Consumer spending has gone down because there is no purchasing power. Everybody is just buying the basics."

With the usual spending spree during Christmas expected to be muted this year, Claudio said most retailers had not stocked up on their inventory to avoid paying higher costs.

"At best, we expect sales this Christmas season to be flat. However, we're expecting sales to go down from 15 percent to 20 percent because people are holding back or downscaling. Rather than eat in a fine restaurant, they'd go to a fast-food joint. Rather than buy new shoes, they'd probably buy new socks," he said.

Unfair competition

What has made the plight of retailers worse, Claudio said, was the unfair competition posed by flea markets where most of the goods sold were believed to be smuggled.

Jojo Mendiola, an executive of SM Department Store, said it was "undeniable" that flea markets had started to eat into the market of legitimate retailers in shopping malls.

"Shopping malls still have the edge in terms of quality and consistency of products and services," Mendiola said.

Fashionable

But flea markets have become a bigger threat to retail operators because shopping in these market-style stores have become fashionable among Manila's elite, according to Concepcion.

"How can a legitimate business, which pays the minimum wage, pays income tax, pays custom duties, and follows government regulations on consumer rights and product standards compete with a *tiangge* operator who is probably selling the same goods?" Concepcion said.

If ever, the government collects only P300 a day in taxes on flea markets, according to Claudio.

Traders from China

Claudio said pushing for more government regulation on flea markets did not necessarily mean that the retail industry was going after Filipino micro entrepreneurs. The target, he said, should be foreign traders who flout the country's laws.

Claudio said the biggest flea markets were being run by traders from China. A few came from South Korea and Taiwan.

Although the country opened the retail sector to foreigners eight years ago, retail operations worth P250,000 and below are still limited to Filipinos.

"The Chinese traders have gone around this provision by marrying Filipinas," Claudio said.

Bishop's 'delicadeza' questioned

From page A1

P1 million from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. It was purportedly intended for Rosales' "Pondo ng Pinoy" project.

Theology of crumbs

Rosales might have defeated the wisdom of his pet project, Pondo ng Pinoy, by accepting Ms Arroyo's donation, one of the two sources said.

Based on the "theology of the crumbs," the project prefers to accept 25 centavos set aside daily by the faithful. Put together, all donations form a fund that helps the poorest of the poor start a livelihood in the Archdiocese of Manila.

Organizers discourage big and one-time donations. What's more important is to change the public attitude toward the poor by making people think of the needy through every centavo saved for them daily, according to Rosales when he launched the project.

In the case of Ms Arroyo's generous donation, one of the priests said Rosales unwittingly got not crumbs but "the whole bakery."

The source said the President failed to personally hand it over to Rosales as the prelate left the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park soon after he delivered the opening remarks.

Ms Arroyo instead gave the check to Fr. Anton Pascual, executive director of the Pondo ng Pinoy Community Foundation. Both sources said Pascual later forwarded the donation to the program and told Rosales that it was from the President.

Pondo now worth P53M

Pascual yesterday told the INQUIRER that Pondo ng Pinoy was now worth P53 million. It was up by P1 million based on the announcement organizers made during the project's first anniversary on June 11.

One of the priests questioned the timing and impropriety of the donation. It came at a time when the CBCP, through its July 10 pastoral statement, was seen to have helped save Ms Arroyo amid mounting calls for her resignation.

Clean hands

"Donations, to be ethical, should come from clean hands and should be for a good purpose," the priest told the INQUIRER. "Without these two elements together, a donation is not morally acceptable."

At that time, the President was busy reaching out to Catholic bishops who remained divided over how to best resolve questions about the legitimacy of her administration.

Thirteen days after making the donation, Ms Arroyo paid an unannounced visit to Archbishop Angel Lagdameo at the CBCP office in Intramuros.

Fresh from his election as the new president of the country's 119 Catholic bishops, the Jaro prelate met with Ms Arroyo for nearly an hour. CBCP employees later told the INQUIRER that they saw a teary-eyed Ms Arroyo emerging from the closed-door meeting.

Dinner in Malacañang

Shortly before the bishops gathered for their annual plenary assembly on July 10, the INQUIRER learned that four of them were fetched from the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue in Manila to join the President for dinner in Malacañang.

Three independent sources from the Church identified three of them as Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, then CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla, and Imus Bishop Chito Tagle.

The following day, the CBCP deliberated on its pastoral statement, which did not join the clamor for an Arroyo resignation but merely advised the President not to ignore such calls.

Nothing wrong

Sought for comment, Peachy Yamsuan, communications director of the Archdiocese of Manila, yesterday said there was nothing wrong with the President donating to Rosales' pioneering project.

"It's not unusual for a president to donate to the Church," Yamsuan told the INQUIRER. "Besides, the amount is quite discreet. Perhaps she really believes in Pondo ng Pinoy and what she did was an act of charity."

Yamsuan said there was nothing wrong with a donation given by someone from government "with the clear intention of giving to charity."

Asked about the timing of the donation, Yamsuan said the Veritas affair was among the very few times that Ms Arroyo and Rosales had gotten together.

"They don't see each other often," she said. "Perhaps, it won't look any better if she went to the archbishop's residence and personally handed over the check."

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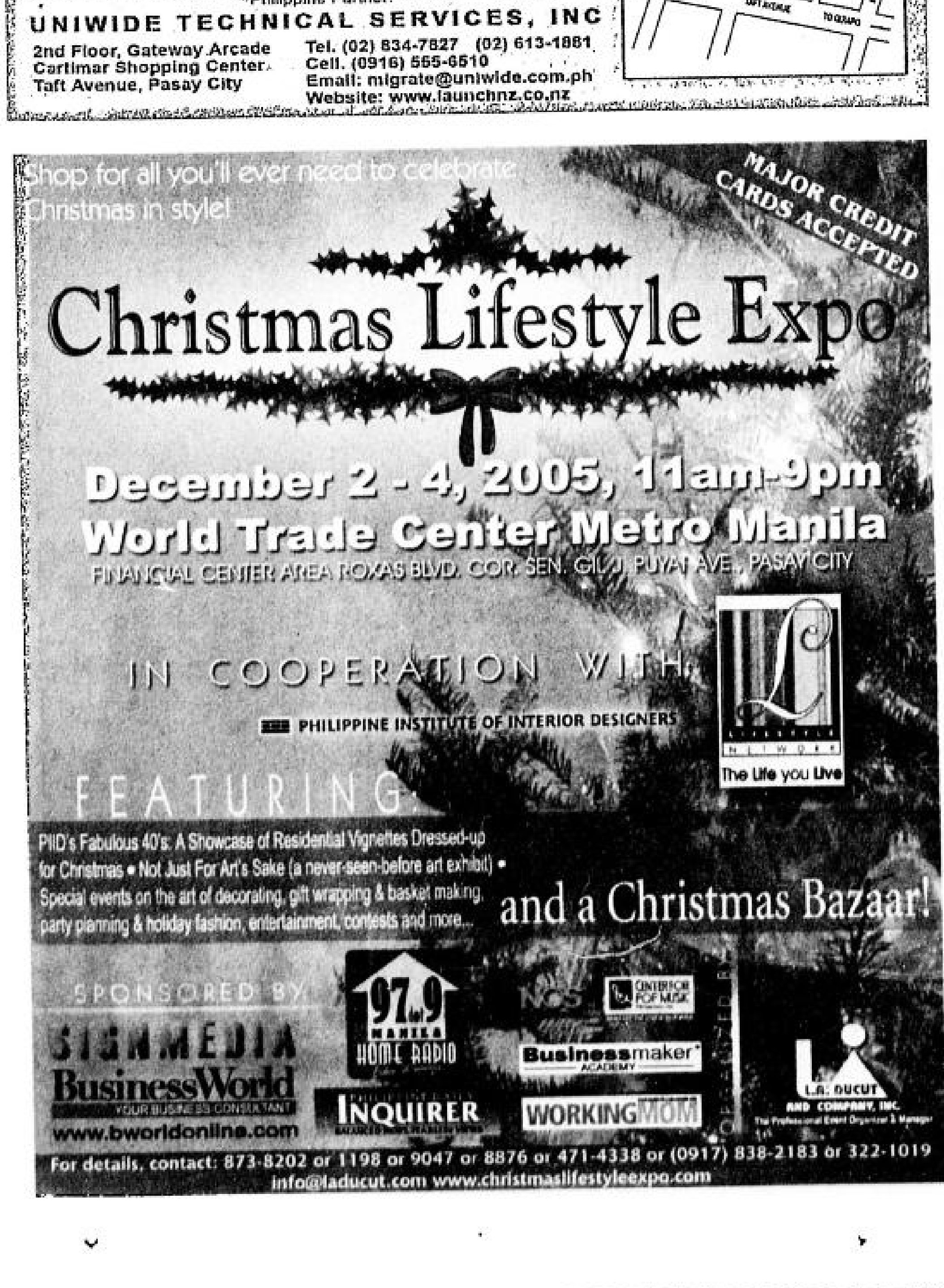

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'Maximo Oliveros' wins best picture in Singapore

THE PHILIPPINE DIGITAL feature, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," a tragicomic story about a 12-year-old gay boy who falls in love with an honest cop trying to bring to justice the boy's criminal father and brothers, won the grand prize in the Asian Festival of 1st Films in Singapore last night.

"Everybody loved the film here," Raymond Lee, the producer, told the INQUIRER. He said the organizers were disappointed that Nathan Lopez, who plays the gay boy, did not make it.

Lee explained there was no time for Lopez to get a passport as they were informed by organizers to come to Singapore since the movie was a strong contender for the top prizes only last Monday.

The festival is an annual festival of film features and documentaries "to celebrate excellence for first time producers, directors, writers, cinematographers, actors and documentary makers from the Asian Diaspora," its organizers said.

The Philippine entry, retitled in English as "The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros," dominated a field of 42 feature films.

Produced by UFO Films under Lee, who wrote the celebrated hits "Tanging Yaman," "Anak" and "Milan," "Maximo Oliveros" earlier won the special jury prize in the Cinemalaya Festival last July.

It also won Best First Film at the Montreal World Film Festival and Best Picture at the ImagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival also in in Canada. *Lito B. Zulueta*

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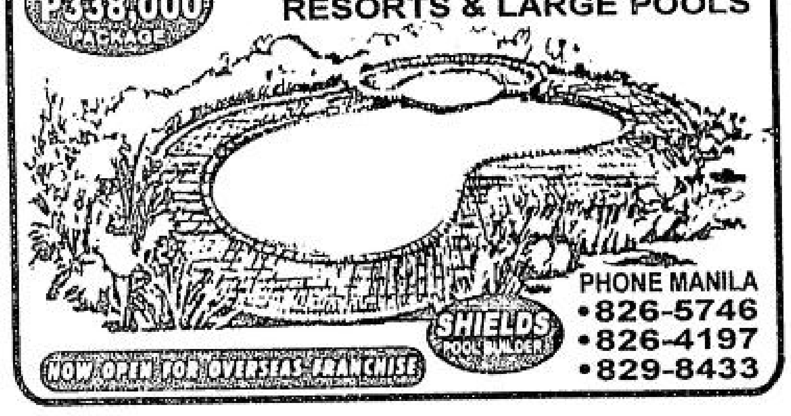

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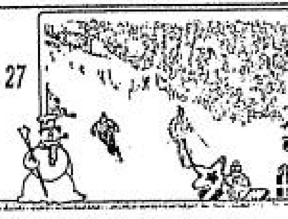

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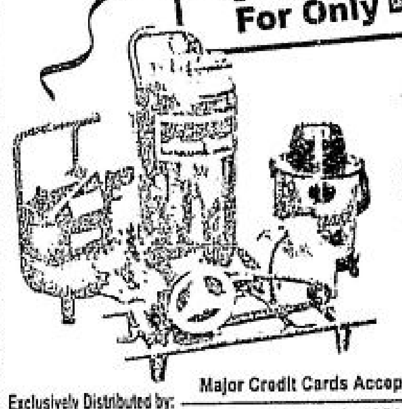

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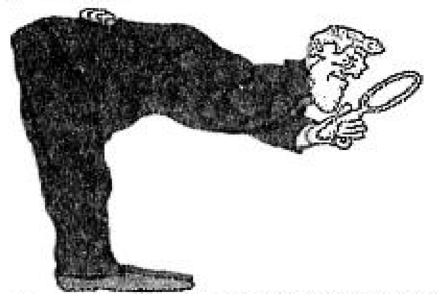

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2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the following payoff sites where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), from Monday to Friday.

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2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the last day for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of San Nicolas (Batangas), Inc.. is on November 10, 2007. After November 10, 2007 (prescriptive date), PDIC, as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

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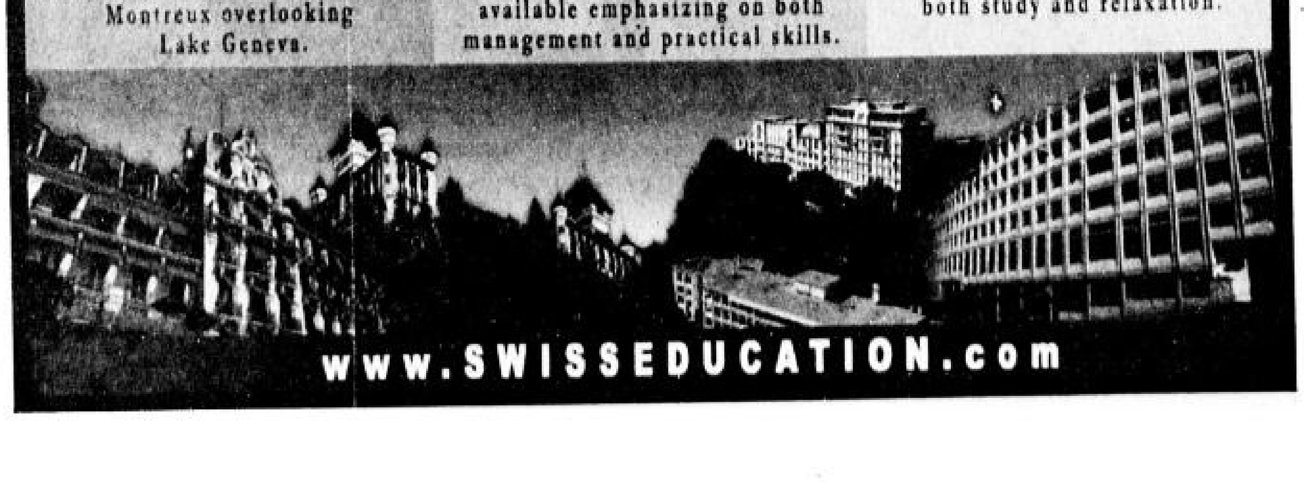

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Vatican formally bans ordination of gays

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN ON TUESDAY published an instruction approved by Pope Benedict XVI banning bishops across the world from ordaining homosexuals into the priesthood.

The edict has already sparked a row within the Roman Catholic Church and has been widely condemned by gay and civil rights groups when leaked extracts were published by newspapers last month.

The prohibition applies to seminarians involved in homosexual practices as well as those displaying "deep-seated homosexual tendencies" or those who support "gay culture." The Church "while profoundly respecting the persons in question, cannot admit to the seminary or to holy orders those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called 'gay culture.'"

"One must in no way overlook the negative consequences that can derive from the ordination of persons with deep-seated homosexual tendencies," the 21-paragraph instruction says.

The instruction follows a series of sex scandals within the Catholic Church in the United States, Latin America and Europe, and belated Vatican efforts to tackle priestly pedophilia.

However, the edict approved by the 78-year-old pope leaves the door to the priesthood ajar for men whose homosexuality was only "the expression of a transitory problem—for example that of adolescence not yet superseded." It said men undergoing such a passing phase of homosexuality must show their tendencies had been "clearly overcome at least three years before ordination to the diaconate." A seminarist becomes a deacon up to two years before full ordination.

The document does not say how a candidate would be able to prove that his "transitory problem" had been overcome, or by what means it could be independently determined.

The Vatican began sending teams in September to inspect more than 200 seminaries in the United States with a mandate to look for "evidence of homosexuality." The idea was first mooted after the late Pope John Paul II summoned US bishops to the Vatican in 2002 to discuss a spate of sex scandals across the United States, mostly involving pedophile priests—but that in turn led to allegations that the Vatican was confusing homosexuality with pedophilia.

The US bishops' conference had then publicly conceded there was a "homosexual atmosphere" in many seminaries.

The leak last month of the document published on Tuesday provoked outrage among many Catholic groups in Europe and the United States.

One dissident Catholic newsletter, Adista, described the move as "ethical cleansing." The Vatican unsurprisingly has no official estimate of the number of homosexual men in the ranks of the priesthood. *AFP*

Bush set to unveil Iraq victory strategy

DENVER—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush was to unveil a "strategy for victory in Iraq" on Wednesday, hoping to convince a skeptical US public two and a half years after the war began that he has a plan to end it.

BUSH

He was to unfurl the blueprint at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, at a time when his poll numbers have sunk to their lowest ever and more and more Americans want him to chart a course for a quick US withdrawal.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said Tuesday that the speech, the first in a series of appeals for support ahead of Iraq's Dec. 15 elections, would center on efforts to train Iraqi security forces to replace US soldiers.

McClellan said that the Pentagon hoped to have enough self-sufficient Iraqi troops to draw down the US presence in the war-torn country in 2006—raising the possibility of troop reductions ahead of the November 2006 US elections, over which the increasingly unpopular war looms large.

Bush, who has rejected any timetable for a withdrawal, said Tuesday, "The people don't want me making decisions based upon politics; they want me to make decisions based upon the recommendation from our generals on the ground." "We've heard some people say, pull them out right now. That's a huge mistake. It'd be a terrible mistake. It sends a bad message to our troops, and it sends a bad message to our enemy, and it sends a bad message to the Iraqis," he said.

In the Annapolis speech, "The president will argue against setting arbitrary timetables or a precipitous withdrawal," McClellan told reporters traveling with the president to El Paso and Denver, Colorado.

"In 2006, I think, you know, the expectation is that conditions will be changing on the ground. We've been making real progress with the training of Iraqi security forces and conditions that will permit us to be able to reduce our presence," said the spokesperson. *AFP*

Creativity linked to sexual success

LONDON—PABLO PICASSO, LORD BYron and Dylan Thomas had more in common than simple creativity. They also had active sex lives, which researchers said on Wednesday was no coincidence.

Psychologists at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Open University in Britain found that professional artists and poets have about twice as many partners as other people.

Their creativity seems to act like a sexual magnet.

But Dr Daniel Nettle, a psychologist at Newcastle University's School of Biology, said it is a double-edge sword.

"Poets and artists have more sexual partners but they also have high rates of depression," he told Reuters.

Nettle and his colleague Helen Clegg questioned 425 British men and women, including professional artists, poets and schizophrenic patients, about their creative activity, sexual encounters and mental health characteristics.

Although creative people have long been associated with active sex lives, the researchers believe their study is the first to back it up with research.

They found that professional artists and poets had between 4 and 10 sexual partners, while less creative people had an average of three.

"We found it in both the men and women which was quite a surprise to us," said Nettle, who reported the finding in the journal "The Proceedings of the Royal Society (B)."

The study also showed that the average number of sexual partners increased as creative output went up. What the artists produce draws attention to them, which seems to enhance their sexual allure. *Reuters*

Philips Roadshow brings the best of European home entertainment to the malls!

Philips, Europe's No. 1 Consumer Electronics brand, revels on the continued success of their ongoing Philips Roadshow presentation.

Showcasing an array of award-winning home entertainment systems, The Philips Roadshow delighted many discerning mall-goers beginning on its grand launch last September until its most recent stopover at Glorietta 3. And with a growing number of people trooping to the malls to take a peek at the Philips Roadshow and the outstanding Philips products it features, the event is expected to attract an even bigger crowd when it makes it final stop at Gaisano Mall, Davao on January 17-30, 2006.

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Mallers enjoyed and experienced firsthand the dynamic technology behind the Philips products exhibited at the Philips Roadshow in one of its four legs.

According to Angelo Valenton, Philips Consumer Electronics General Manager, the Roadshow's success bodes well for the sales of Philips products. "The response we got from people is overwhelming. Of course, we did our part in making them appreciate the best that Philips can give. Not only did we bring the products closer to them we also made them experience its superb capabilities," he said.

The Philips Roadshow isn't your typical product demonstration it actually encourages you to try the products! What's more it features an assortment of booths, fun games and surprises that convey a fun and lively vibe to the whole shebang.

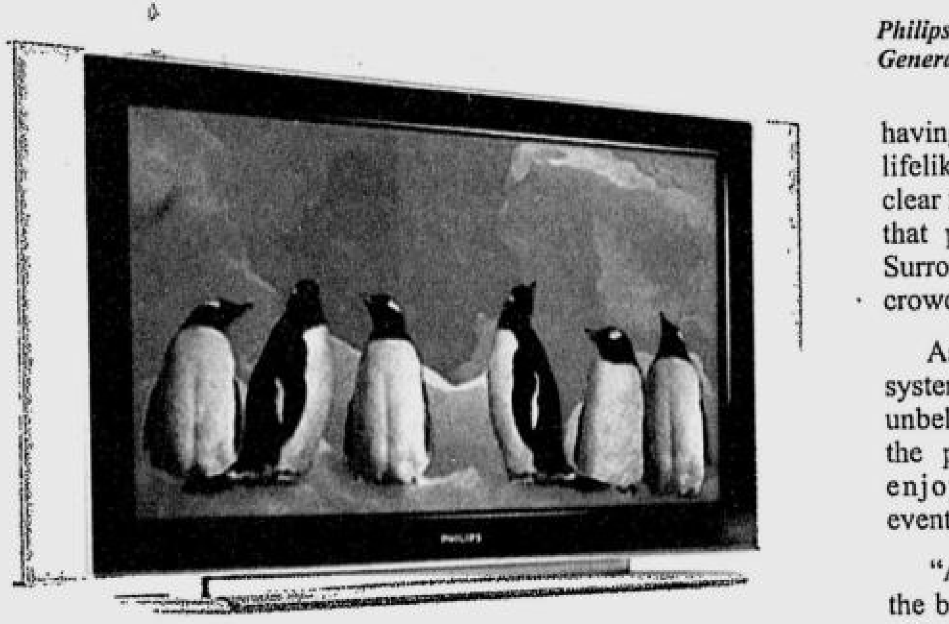
The most-loved feature in the Roadshow is the mini-theater or Ambilight room as free popcorns were offered to those who sampled its delights. There were free face and body painting sessions as well.

Philips Consumer Electronics General Manager Angelo Valenton.

Among the products featured during the roadshow is the Philips DVD home entertainment system boasting of full cinematic sight and sound; the Philips Hi-Fi System, which can play audio material from practically any format and features powerful deep bass sounds with total digital sound control; and Philips TVs that features technological advances like Ambilight and Pixel Plus, among others.

"The King of DVDs," as Philips' state of the art DVDs are called, fascinated the ever-growing crowd of people. Of special mention is the Philips DVDR series, which can play and record everything be it from camcorders, TV or other formats in perfect digital picture quality with or without a disc. Another wonder that gained instant admirers is the Philips HTS5510C DVD/CD Changer Home Theater. This stylish, compact and fully digital home entertainment system offers a progressive scan feature that allows for razor-sharp and flicker free images and a dynamic bass boost for the ultimate in surround sound. It also offers a fast 5 disc changer and four attractive floor-standing speaker towers.

Philips award-winning 42PF7320 flat TV with Pixel Plus was also featured at the Philips Roadshow. Its collection of features which include having an enhanced-definition plasma WGA display for vivid colors and lifelike images, Pixel Plus for better depth and clarity, digital crystal clear for optimal contrast and sharpness, active control and light sensor that provides intelligent brightness adjustment and virtual Dolby Surround for a cinema-like audio experience definitely wowed the crowd.



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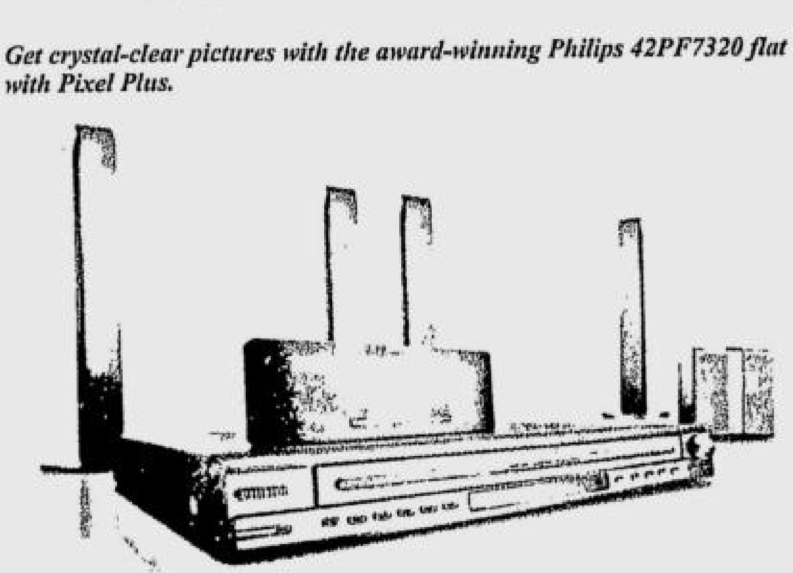

Philips HTS5510C DVD/CD Changer Home Theater delivers dynamic surround sounds and awesome movie-viewing experience.

Aside from letting people try out the best in home entertainment system, the Philips Roadshow also allowed fabulous discounts and unbelievable deals that allowed many to bring home with them many of the products that they enjoyed during the event.

"After experiencing the best that Philips can offer we knew people would surely want to take home some of the products they tried at the Philips Roadshow. We made their dreams come true by offering them fantastic discounts and deals on many of our premium items," Valenton said.

The Philips Ambilight room.

More thrilling surprises, product bundles, great deals and tons of fun still wait for you at the Philips Roadshow! Catch the Philips Roadshow at SM North Edsa on December 1 to 14; and Gaisano Mall on January 17-30, 2006.

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sense and simplicity

Canada sets Jan. 23 elections

OTTAWA—CANADIANS WILL HEAD TO THE polls on Jan. 23 after the longest election campaign in decades, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced Tuesday, after his scandal-tainted minority government was ousted in a no-confidence vote.

Martin spoke after asking Canada's de facto head of state, Governor General Michaelle Jean, to dissolve Parliament and kick off a 56-day election campaign that is likely to be the most vicious in Canadian history and the first over the Christmas holiday in decades.

"I'm going to very much campaign on our record and where we want to take the country," Martin said.

His Liberal Party lost a censure vote by 171 votes to 133 late Monday in the House of Commons amid acrimonious exchanges over corruption allegations.

But Martin's party maintains a slight lead over the opposition Conservatives in public opinion polls and many, including two prominent conservative leaders, former prime minister Joe Clark and Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, predicted another minority Liberal government.

"A vote for a Liberal government is a vote to protect a strong economy. With the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. It's a vote to maintain the best of fiscal performance ever seen in the history of this country," Martin said.

Under a Liberal government, "Canada has gone from pauper to power house. Deficits are history. We've had eight surpluses in a row now... (and) paid down more than 60 billion (Canadian) dollars in debt," he said.

An Environics Research poll for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation gave the Liberals 31 percent support, the Conservatives 26 percent, New Democratic Party (NDP) 17 percent and the separatist Bloc Quebecois, which runs candidates only in the French-speaking province of Quebec, 12 percent, or 50 percent in Quebec.

A Strategic Counsel poll for the Globe and Mail newspaper pegged the Liberals at 35 percent, Conservative at 29 percent, the NDP at 17 percent and the Bloc Quebecois at 14 percent.

One pollster told broadcaster CTV the results were "ironic and perverse" because Canadian attitudes had not changed much since Martin was first elected prime minister 17 months ago.

Many now predict that Martin and his main rival, Conservative leader Stephen Harper, will be fighting for their political survival, each facing possible expulsion if their respective parties fail to make gains in this election.

The Liberals lost a majority government in the last election because of outrage over a funding scandal and infighting between Martin supporters and former prime minister Jean Chrétien loyalists.

Harper said the Liberals "have been preoccupied with damage control, lurching from one scandal to another, recklessly promising to spend money, desperately trying to avoid the people's verdict. But no longer." "We need to change government to replace the old-style politics with sweeping new reforms. We need to change to replace the culture of entitlement with a commitment to accountability and we need a change to replace benefits for a few with government for everyone," he said. *AFP*

A VIDEO grab taken Nov. 29 from Qatari news channel Al-Jazeera television shows two of the four foreigners taken hostage in Iraq. AFP

4 foreign workers abducted in Iraq

BAGHDAD—FOUR WESTERN HOSTAGES branded as spies were shown in a video aired on Tuesday as a spate of abductions took Iraq back to the dire security conditions foreigners faced from kidnappers last year.

The four aid workers—two Canadians, a Briton and an American—were shown in the tape broadcast by Al-Jazeera television three days after they were snatched in west Baghdad.

The grainy video from a previously unknown group calling itself the "Swords of Truth" showed four men sitting cross-legged on the ground. It appeared to carry Sunday's date stamp and had crossed swords in the top right-hand corner.

The organization accused the men of being "spies working for the occupying forces" under the guise of working for a Christian group. Al-Jazeera did not say if the tape included a threat against the men's lives. The four work for Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), one of the few remaining aid groups operating in Iraq.

The video showed the passport of 74-year-old Briton Norman Kember, a retired professor and lifelong peace activist who has been identified by the British Foreign Office.

CPT identified the other three hostages as American Tom Fox, 54, a father-of-two from Clearbrook, Virginia; James Loney, 41, a community worker from Toronto; and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, a Canadian electrical engineer and squash coach.

"We pray that those who hold them will be merciful and that they will be released soon," CPT said in a statement.

"We are angry because what has happened to our teammates is the result of the actions of the US and UK governments due to the illegal attack on Iraq and the continuing occupation and oppression of its people," it said.

The tape of the hostages emerged on the same day another group issued video showing it was holding a German archaeologist and her driver hostage. They disappeared in Baghdad on Friday. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Indonesia bird flu death

JAKARTA—A 25-year-old Indonesian woman who died has tested positive for bird flu, a senior researcher at the health ministry said on Wednesday. Endang Mamahit said the woman had been treated at the Sulianto Saroso hospital, Jakarta's hospital for treating bird flu patients. She died on Tuesday. "We have conducted the test and the results show positive," Mamahit told Reuters, adding that results testing for the presence of the H5N1 flu virus have to be confirmed by laboratory in Hong Kong affiliated with the World Health Organization. Ilham Patu, a spokesperson for the hospital, said the woman had been in contact with dead chickens before being admitted to the hospital on Nov. 24. "When we admitted her the condition was already bad," he told Reuters. Indonesia has had seven deaths from bird flu confirmed by the Hong Kong laboratory. Another five people have been confirmed to have contracted the virus but have survived. *Reuters*

Peres to quit Labour Party

JERUSALEM—Elder statesman Shimon Peres will announce on Wednesday he is quitting the Labour Party and supporting Ariel Sharon in Israel's March 28 election without joining the prime minister's new party, Channel 10 TV said. Channel 10 said Peres, attending an Israeli-Palestinian soccer match in Barcelona, conveyed his decision to one of its reporters accompanying him on the visit. There was no immediate confirmation from Peres' advisers, who said earlier on Tuesday he may leave Labour and could announce his decision on his return to Israel on Wednesday. Channel 10 correspondent Gilad Yadin, reporting from Barcelona, said Peres had decided to quit Labour, which ousted him as leader in a Nov. 9 election, and "embark on a new political path." *Reuters*

France antiterror law

PARIS—France's lower house of parliament on Tuesday adopted a new antiterrorism bill drawn up following the London transport bombings, that is set to allow greatly increased video surveillance of public places. Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy told parliament the new law would "equip France with a more effective arsenal to prevent terrorist acts" and would give "the law enforcement authorities greater means to avoid a catastrophe." The bill, which the government hopes will become law before the end of the year, is set to be put before the Senate in mid-December. It was supported by the 373 deputies of the ruling centre-right UMP and its ally the UDF, while the 27 deputies from the Communist and Green parties voted against and the main opposition Socialists abstained. *AFP*

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- SM North Edsa (City Center G/F between Sylvia Santos and Benches Area) December 1-14, 2005
- Gaisano Mall Davao (Atrium Area) January 17-30, 2006

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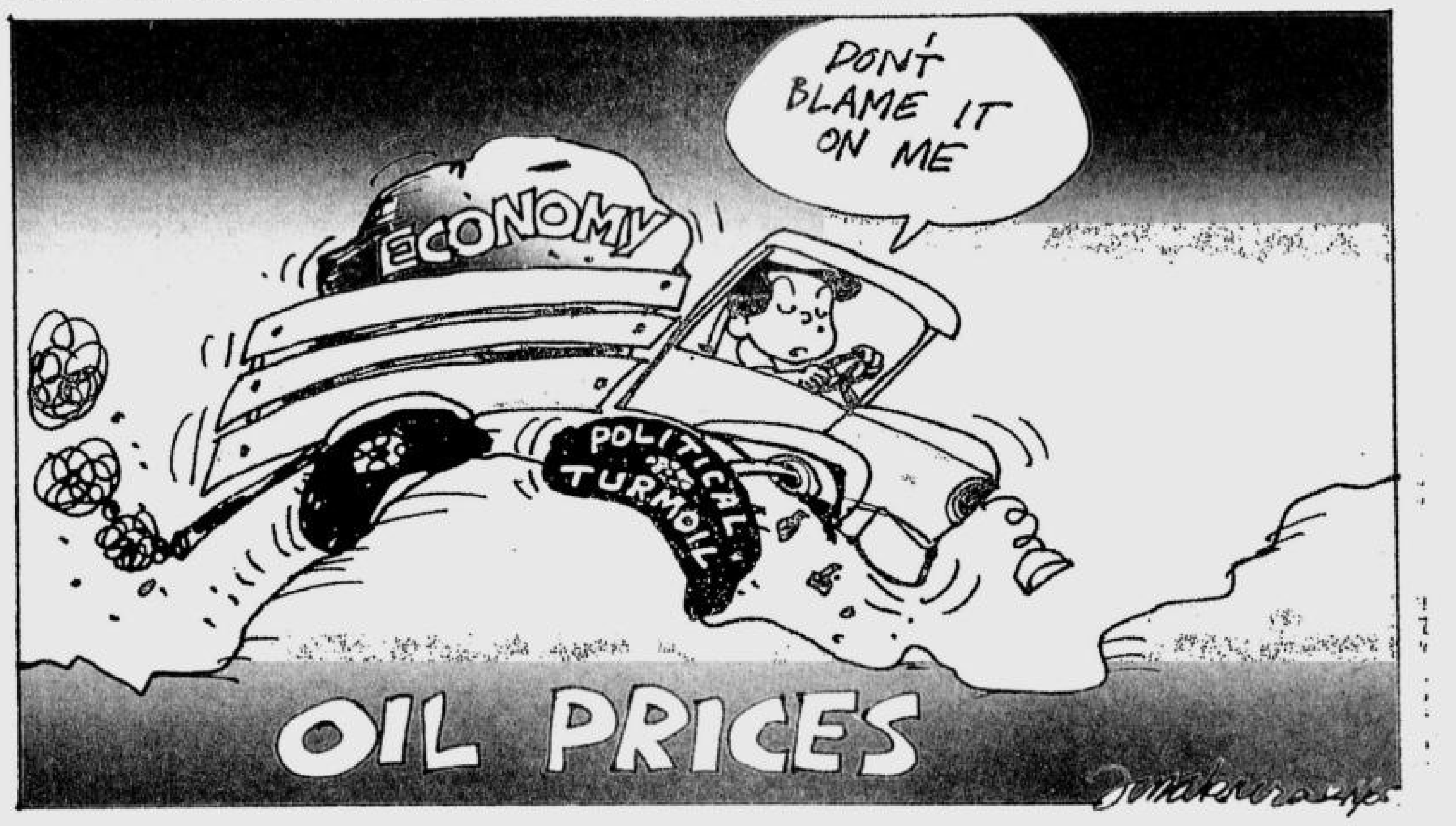


Throwing money

EDITORIAL

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HAVE BEEN REpeatedly hailed as modern-day heroes for helping save the economy from collapse. And no one is about to begrudge them that accolade. This year in particular, as political turbulence threatened to sink the economy, a 28-percent increase in their dollar remittances during the first three quarters kept the peso from collapse and more recently even allowed it to recover so that this week its value touched a seven-month high.

But thousands of OFWs need help themselves. A "global situationer" for the year 2004, prepared by the Department of Foreign Affairs, counted a total of 4,775 Filipinos being held in foreign prisons, almost a quarter of them women. Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House committee on appropriations, observed after reading the report that "in every continent except Antarctica, in every climatic zone, you can find a Filipino behind bars."

Those being held in foreign prisons were not the only ones who faced serious problems. The report said that in the same year, 5,883 OFWs sought help from Philippine embassies. And a total of 12,613 were repatriated with the help of the government.

Andaya said every Filipino overseas who runs into trouble should be helped. He has proposed that the DFA be allowed to retain up to 50 percent of its collections from consular services to fund the extension of legal and other forms of assistance to Filipinos who get into trouble abroad. He also said that P251 million from the the DFA's P5.3-billion budget for 2006 will be allocated to a "building fund" that will be used to spruce up Philippine consular offices.

Although the money isn't his, it still is good to hear Andaya trying to put money where his mouth is for this particular purpose. But we wonder if throwing money at the problem is going to solve it. The militant labor group Migrante, for instance, has pointed out that there's a law mandating the allocation of P100 million yearly to a legal assistance fund for OFWs. Now Migrante is asking where all that money went.

If indeed Andaya believes that the big number of Filipinos being held in foreign prisons is a "matter of concern," why is he giving top priority to improving the look of our consular offices abroad? Having well-appointed consulates and embassies will, without doubt, boost the morale of Filipinos abroad and make them proud. But will that keep the criminally inclined among them out of trouble and those who have been falsely accused of crimes by their employers out of jail?

Before Andaya starts throwing away money that isn't his, perhaps he should reflect some more on the findings contained in that DFA situationer. For example, he himself pointed out that the most often cited causes for the jailing of Filipinos are work-related and immigration concerns. The first could mean anything, including poor working conditions, unhealthy employer-employee relationships, etc. The second probably involves illegal entry or improper documentation. Both can be mainly addressed right here, through a more thorough scrutiny of employment contracts, a more rigid screening of job applicants and a more serious campaign to inform Filipinos about the perils of illegal migration.

A deeper study is also needed to find out why more Filipinos encounter more problems in certain places. For instance, the DFA situationer shows that 2,122 Filipinos sought help from the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait. That number represents 40 percent of the 5,583 cases of "OFWs in distress" worldwide, which is way out of proportion to the number of Filipinos working in that small patch of the Middle East. Are Filipinos perhaps finding it more difficult to adjust to Kuwaiti culture than anywhere else in the world? Or is there an attitude problem on the part of the Kuwaitis? Either way, this disturbing figure suggests a need for a serious review of Philippine labor export policy in relation to certain countries.

All these will, of course, require the expenditure of some money, but not in the amounts that Andaya has been talking about. And they will go much further in protecting the welfare of our OFWs than anything he has proposed. To think that Andaya wants to be the budget secretary.

Tambourine brigade

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

STAR LANTERNS, CRIBS AND CHRISTMAS trees are now bursting out all over. They bring out the "tambourine brigade": scrawny kids who bang flattened bottle caps, tacked to sticks, to accompany off-key carols as they cadge a few pesos.

These grimy "street troubadours" should be in school. But poverty forces 33 out of every 100 to drop out before reaching Grade 6. And they know this season nets them larger tips.

"Christmas is the only time I know of when men and women seem, by one consent, to open their shut-up hearts freely," Charles Dickens wrote in 1843. But these chronically hungry youngsters can barely read. Thus, few know of Dickens' tale of Christmases past, present and yet to come.

Like the re-engineered Scrooge of "A Christmas Carol," we must see the deprived "not as another race of creatures, bound on other journeys, but fellow passengers to the grave," Dickens urged.

Penury is so widespread in our countries that we take deprivation for granted. Lazarus at the gate blends unseen into the woodwork. And the treadmill squabbles, by our "leaders," deafen us. These abort what makes for a humane society.

To help strip these blinders, scan the "Philippine Human Development Report 2005," alongside the global version published by the United Nations Development Programme. Then, locate those kids among the report's HDIs or human development indicators: "longevity, knowledge and a decent standard of living."

Are many of them frailer, shorter and academically slower than their Malaysian, Korean or Singaporean counterparts? Why?

Here, 22 percent of people are undernourished. It is 2 percent in Malaysia. Poor nutrition stunts almost a half (47 percent) of kids in Negros Occidental and Northern Samar (45 percent), national surveys show. They're dwarfed by better fed kids in Beijing, Seoul or Hong Kong.

"Do not try to live forever," George Bernard Shaw counsels. "You'll not succeed." Sure. But does life here needlessly have to be shorter than in other lands?

Life expectancy for Filipinos is now 70.2 years. But Singaporeans at 78 and Japanese at 81 years show what is possible. "That a man's reach should exceed his grasp;/Or what's a heaven for?" Rabbi Ben Ezra asked.

"Provincial disparities continue to be large," the Philippine HDR notes. Cebu, Pampanga, Camarines Sur or La Union are where life expectancy is 70 years plus. That's almost two decades longer than the life expectancy in Sulu, Tawi-Tawi or Lanao del Sur. Carolers in Antique, Apayao, Basilan, Western Samar and Eastern Samar are in the 60-year bracket.

Life expectancy in all provinces rose, with one sorry exception: Maguindanao, the PHDR notes. It dropped to 52 years from 53.2 in 1997.

Camarines Sur, Nueva Ecija and Davao del Sur overtook Rizal in stretching life spans. Davao Oriental posted the heftiest increase: 1.7 years. Leyte, North Cotabato, Bukidnon and Camarines Sur followed, tacking on an additional 1.4 to 1.6 years.

Antique just skid into the "Bottom Ten." Aside from the five Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao provinces, the tailenders include: Kalinga, Apayao, among others.

Lack of safe water is one cause for this gap. In Masbate, 66 percent of the people use open, easily contaminated wells. In contrast, 96 percent of Batangueños have reliable water sources. Quality of medical facilities also vary widely.

"Differences in clothing, houses or menus are galling enough," the late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali wrote. "But shortened lives and premature graves are an obscenity. They give resentment of the poor a raw and dangerous edge. We will reap the whirlwind if we persist in sowing the wind this way."

HDIs integrate overall enrollment figures with high school graduate ratios. They track this vital component of well-being better. "Education makes a people easy to lead but difficult to drive; easy to govern but impossible to enslave," Lord Brougham mused.

Enrollment nationwide is an impressive 92 percent. But differences are wide. Nine out of 10 kids in Zambales are enrolled. It is only seven in Negros Oriental. Tambourine brigade members are not among the 52, out of every 100, who get a high school diploma.

Western Samar and Lanao del Sur lead in ratcheting up high school graduates. "Sarangani, Maguindanao, Agusan del Sur and Negros Oriental are now among the bottom 10," the PHDR points out. They have dislodged Bohol, Biliran, Northern Samar and Apayao.

Family incomes were on a roller-coaster due to political turmoil and recovery upswings. "Between 2000 and 2003, per capital incomes rose in 40 provinces and fell in 37." Excluding Metro Manila, Nueva Vizcaya had the highest per capita income and Sulu the lowest.

Life membership in the tambourine brigade squelches the potential in kids who could have been doctors, priests, pilots or nurses. In each, "Mozart is murdered," Antoine de Saint-Exupery once muttered.

Singaporeans or Chinese kids are not smarter than our tambourine carolers, notwithstanding basement grades, logged by Filipino students, in the last four International Science and Math mathematics tests. But they're better nourished, and they receive adequate natal care, precisely when their bodies and brains are developing. That is denied tambourine kids by a blind, grasping elite.

"Many of the things we need can wait," the Nobel Laureate Gabriel Mistral insisted. "The child cannot wait. Now is the time his bones are being formed; his blood made, his sinews developed. To him, we cannot say: tomorrow. His name is today."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Christmas story

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S DEC. 1, AND FOR MOST OF US FILIPINOS, that officially starts the longest Christmas in the world. A couple of my neighbors, of course, believe it started way earlier, they have been playing Christmas songs for some weeks now. It's the time of year when things wind down, people become a little more introspective, thoughts turn from the state of the nation to the state of the soul. Which is as it should be. But I don't know that the one need naturally precludes the other. The more I think about it, the more I realize that the Christmas story holds a special meaning for us this year, one that has to do with the things that are Caesar's and the things that are God's.

How does that story go?

A poor couple—a carpenter, who can barely make both ends meet, and his wife, who has been an object of gossip for getting pregnant, father unknown—are seeking temporary refuge from the cold wintry night. They knock on the doors of inns, of taverns, of the houses of ordinary folk, only to be frowned upon and sent on their way. At the end of their rope, they finally find a manger, a tethering place for the animals, and there, amid the filthy surroundings and foul smells (rather unlike the bright and cheerful manger scenes that stand underneath Christmas trees in our homes), the woman gives birth.

There might or might not have been a fierce light and angelic voices that accompanied the event. There was no reporter to cover the event. Rumor has it there were visitors some days later. These were not ordinary visitors, these were kings. They came from the East, following a bright star that guided them all the way to the place. The birth of the King of Kings had been foretold to them, and they had come bringing gifts fit for one: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Maybe the bright star was their faith because, for some reason, it never occurred to them that, one, they might have gotten the wrong address; two, the infant lying in the hay, wrapped in rags, might not be the prophesied messiah; and, three, their precious gifts might end up in the pawnshop or the hands of thieves.

But that is why they are called the Magi, the Wise Men, the people who had the eyes to see through illusion and reality.

What special meaning does that story have for today?

Well, if you think of truth as setting you free, as the Bible says, then you can always construe the Messiah, or Savior, as Truth. And you can always draw a parallel between the way Mary and Joseph were turned away by the owners of inns and houses, who thought the prospect of a miserable pauper being born within the perimeters or proximity of their property *kadiri* to death; and the way the truth was scorned by Congress, which thought the prospect of unpleasant revelations seeing the light of day in its premises suicidal to the max. Indeed, you can go on to draw a parallel between Mary and Joseph being denied refuge and God-fearing generals and civil servants being prevented from birthing the truth at the Senate. Still, indeed, you can throw in the added feature of a known thief and a blackguard named Hello Garci being welcomed with open arms by the innkeepers and provided ample libation to fortify his spirits while the winds swirl outside.

The Wise Men, well, there are many of them in this country, people who have always had the eyes to see through illusion and reality, people who were never deluded by the swaddling clothes of truth and the dazzling finery of lies. Most of them are not kings, they are plain folk, guided only by the incandescent star of decency and common sense, who never have doubts for one minute that, one, the loser in the last elections is in the wrong address; two, the small person in the wrong address is everything but this country's savior; and three, their precious gifts are destined to end up in the hands of thieves.

Since July, we have also had the addition of people who have at least lost their delusions, if not their ambitions. I don't know that we may now call them "wise," maybe "wa-is," but that is another story. These are people who have rediscovered the truth, though what star guides them in that direction only they can say.

And finally, well, I've always thought that the power of the Christmas story lies in what it says about power. The Greek and Roman mythologies also told of divinities incarnating themselves—quite apart from impregnating women in the case of the more concupiscent gods, including Zeus himself—but normally in the form of mortals with unusual strength and beauty. Jesus Christ, King of Kings, wasn't born a king. He was born not unlike one of the street children you might see in this urban blight, his parents being among the poorest of the poor, the lowliest of the lowly.

Being God, or the Son of God, he could have chosen to be born a rock star and gotten the girl in the final reel. Or more kingly circumstances in the time and place that he did. Yet he chose to be born that way, and to die a most horrible death—I hear Ian Gillian shrieking in the Gethsemane scene of "Jesus Christ, Superstar," "Why should I die?" What does that say about the feeling-*anak-ng*-Diyos who chooses to become president without the voters' consent and dons queenly robes where she should be in kiddie rags or queenly drag? What does that say about people totally undeserving of power, who cling to it with desperate ferocity they will drag down the world through the mud first before they part with it?

What does the Christmas story say but that real power lies in humility, and real salvation lies in simplicity? Over the next few weeks, we are going to see the people who wear the robes of purloined power fall to their knees once again and praise the coming of the Lord.

Question is, which lord?

On being focused

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, WE FILIPINOS HAVE derived patriotic pleasure watching our young athletes compete with the best of Southeast Asia, and thinking how much better we would do if only our sports officials were more focused and united, instead of bickering over turf, funding, patronage, etc. Let's hope we can put all those problems aside and really concentrate on moving our country forward in the arena of sports and other endeavors.

* * *

Our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, called the Filipino youth the hope of the motherland. We've seen this truism in sports these last few days.

And last week, in the field of classical music, we saw 15-year-old Filipino violin prodigy Chino Sebastian Gutierrez perform with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Oscar Yatco. Chino is in Manila for a Christmas break from his academic and violin studies in Germany. It was a beautiful interaction between Yatco (also Germany-based and among Chino's earliest patrons) and the young violinist, as they wove through Felix Mendelssohn's "Concerto for Violin & Orchestra, Op. 64, in E minor." The event also marked the 75th birthday of Yatco, himself a violin prodigy in his time, and the audience was simply amazed that he could still flail his arms with gusto, sans arthritis. Chino was so technically good, especially in two Paganini études, among the four encores he obliged. One can just imagine him given, say, another 15 or 20 years of living a life of love, pain, joy, sorrow—all those emotions that deepen an adroit artist.

* * *

Last week, I followed assiduously the explosion of cultural presentations all over Manila as a welcome relief from politics and problems of life. In addition to the Yatco-Gutierrez concert I caught the "Ivory Mafia" at De La Salle University's Enrique Yuchengco Hall, featuring the *ocho manos* of pianists Nena del Rosario Villanueva, herself a child prodigy in her time, and Carminda Regala, Amelita Guevarra and Bonnie Armacost, wife of former US Ambassador to Manila Michael Armacost. These ladies were once hied to Madrid by then Ambassador Isabel Wilson for an Independence Day celebration. They seem to enjoy playing together. In between the two events was the "7th San Agustin International Music Festival" of religious music at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, featuring Spanish organist Jose Luis Echechipia Paris, who drew the best from that church's 300-year-old pipe organ; and the Children's Choir from Mandaluyong. Orchids to Fr. Pedro Gallende, OSA, the director of San Agustin Museum.

Earlier, there was the wonderful show of Korean traditional performing arts at the Meralco Theater, staged in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Korean-Philippine friendship. The show featured traditional Korean costumes and dances, as well as the music of a traditional orchestra from one province in Korea. There was a part where some youths performed on different percussion instruments. It was so well-coordinated it made me think a government ought to function that way—a lead drummer sets the tone and all the other performers take the cue. Unfortunately for the government, it's not always as syncopated.

* * *

Sadly, all these cultural events saw the halls only about two-thirds full at best. I thought, perhaps, there could be some coordination whereby a national agency could arrange with the business community for students from various public schools to attend these events. The business community could provide buses and some sandwiches for the students.

As I watched Chino perform, I couldn't help thinking: if only his former classmates at the Philippine Science High School could see him, what an inspiration he would be in artistry, discipline and focus—virtues we want our young people to imbibe. (He also competed in math contests in Germany.)

* * *

Last week, I also managed to squeeze in a half-day seminar on "Exploring New Business & Trade Opportunities in Vietnam," hosted by the Vietnamese Embassy and co-organized by the Center for Global Best Practices, in cooperation with the Financial Management & Consulting Co (FMC). The lead speakers were my good friend Ruy Y. Moreno, former managing partner of Arthur Andersen Vietnam and former RP honorary consul-general to that country; and Le Thi Phung, FMC's chair. In his talk, Moreno, now the vice president and executive assistant to the executive vice chair and CEO of RCBC, dwelt on the many similarities between RP and Vietnam, our 14th largest trading partner. These included our common colonial past and the size of our land area and population. Vietnam's population is 76 percent rural and 24 percent urban; 22 percent is below 24 years of age and 65 percent under 34. It's easy to see that its 43 million labor force can offer our work force very stiff competition, especially since they have a keen competitive spirit. Moreno noted that the young Vietnamese attend English classes at night and that information technology is the first priority all over the country. Tourism has also become such an important industry, drawing over three million tourists a year, compared to our just over two million.

* * *

Afterwards, Sen. Richard Gordon was asked to address the seminar impromptu. He recalled how interested the Vietnamese were when RP was charting a new course for Subic in the post-US scenario. Someone then asked why the Vietnamese, not the Filipinos, are now perceived by the Japanese and Taiwanese as the "alternative investment base to China." Gordon said they have become very united, focused and committed after their long struggle for freedom and independence. Later I told him he should tell his Senate colleagues this lesson, for all too often that chamber is perceived as a major stumbling block to progress.

The missing face of AIDS

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

TODAY IS WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY.

Somewhere in today's INQUIRER, I've written something on the Unicef campaign to help children affected by HIV-AIDS. "Affected by" means these children have parents (persons) living with HIV-AIDS (PLH) or are themselves infected.

By the way, you don't say PWA (persons with AIDS) anymore. You say PLH. So much for being politically correct.

Children, Unicef says, are the missing face of AIDS. According to the Lunduyan Foundation's study on Filipino children affected by AIDS, silence, sad to say, best describes the children's situation. Their parents' hesitancy to be forthright about the disease is one of the reasons their children's plight is not being addressed.

After reading the results of the study, I wanted to meet and interview a family affected by HIV-AIDS, but I was told that there was a great deal of hesitancy on the part of the families. In fact, out of 373 identified children, only 95 were allowed by their parents to participate in the study.

Some stories in the study gave a face and a voice to the otherwise silent world.

Here is Nina's story.

Nina was born in a foreign country where her father was working. Her mother was a former health care worker.

Nina was about 4 years old when her mother was first hospitalized. When she turned 7, life for her and her parents changed dramatically. Nina described it as a roller-coaster ride that went straight down.

"That was when my mother became sicker than before," Nina recalled. "She stayed long in the hospital. After she left the hospital, she moved into a house near the hospital. I had to change school in order to be with her. When Mama lost so much weight, her friends stopped visiting.

"I was about 10 when we returned to the Philippines. Mama did not get better, but at least she was happier here. Her relatives were within reach and the health services were better."

Nina's family was just trying to settle down in their new home when her father accepted a job in the country they had just left.

"I was very sad because I needed Papa near me. I was afraid I would not be able to take care of Mama very well. I felt too young. But Papa had to go. We needed the money for Mama to get well."

Nina's father left and she wouldn't see him for a long time.

"The first few months after Papa left, Mama found the energy to attend to my needs," Nina narrated. "She even engaged in business and earned extra money to send to my aunts and uncles in the province. I adjusted to my new home, school, friends, and to Papa's absence.

"But this did not last long. Mama became increasingly cranky and hotheaded. She seemed to be always angry with me. Nothing I did was right for her. She blamed me for the unpleasant things that happened between her and Papa. I felt guilty and sad. Maybe she was right. Because of my needs, Papa had to go away to work."

After some time, Nina found out that her father had stopped sending money and he was having an affair. The financial burden had shifted to Nina's mother. To make a long story short, Nina's mother sold the house (for which she had saved up to buy) and moved to the province.

"One time my mother arrived home from the hospital with papers that had the words HIV and AIDS," Nina recalled. "I asked her what they meant and she replied, 'Someday you will understand.'"

Nina's mother went to Manila often for treatment, sometimes staying there for more than a week at a time. "I had to amuse myself whenever I was left alone in the house. I often wore my superhero costumes and stood on my bed, pretending I had enemies or bad people to fight and drive away.

"One time, while she was packing her things before leaving for Manila, Mama said to me, 'Nina please bear with me. I just need to get well.' I did not want to add to Mama's worries, so I told her that I was not a crybaby and that I was not afraid of ghosts. But what I really wanted to say was that I did not want her to leave me. And that I was afraid for her. That night, I prayed so hard that Mama would get well soon and be with me.

"One day, Mama finally told me what was ailing her all these years. She also informed her brothers and sisters. There was not much time left for us."

Nina tried to locate her father. While doing this, she felt her love for her father diminish. At her mother's bedside, things were just as bad. "During those times that she was in the hospital, Mama would be as cranky as she could be. She would often tell me or her friends that I should not have been born. Or that it was my fault that my father left us. It hurt, but I knew she was going through an awful time.

"When Mama's friends came by and asked how life would be when she's gone, I would say, 'I hope Papa takes me.' I didn't want to be with my aunts and uncles because they didn't seem to like me. I'd rather be alone. I'd like to go on studying. Someday, I might become a good artist."

After her mother died, Nina was placed in the care of an uncle who had drinking problems and a troubled family life. Nina continued her studies until an NGO was able to track down her father. He was, it turned out, living with another woman who was pregnant with their child.

Nina now lives with them and takes care of the baby.

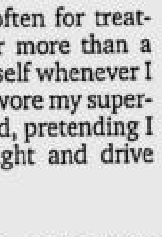
"In the end," the study on children affected by HIV-AIDS says, "the silence with which these children live is not only silence about HIV and AIDS but about many aspects of their lives... Their burden of silence is heavier, as they too often do not have the tools to understand HIV and AIDS and its impact on their families..."

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Puerto Princesa's concerns

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T EXPLAIN, THE NAIA Centennial Terminal smells like a giant armpit. The Philippine Airlines passenger's only consolation is the exceptional niceness of the airline's cabin crew and the deservedly famous soft landings of PAL planes, courtesy of its pilots. That, and the, apparently, new mania for punctuality on the part of PAL. I arrived in Puerto Princesa City 15 minutes early and arrived back in Manila on the dot.

A forum put together by Action for Economic Reforms (AER) made possible my visit to that city. It was my first return since 1997 when, like many other writers, I went there—to Vietville specifically—to see what could be done for the Vietnamese refugees following then President Ramos' decision to expel them. Mercifully, the Ramos administration relented, and the United States came up with more generous regulations that, since then, have enabled most of the refugees to finally relocate to America. (The ones left are married to Filipinas. There were limits to America's generosity. Immigration lawyers are now trying to help the remaining refugees and their Filipino spouses.)

The forum was meant to share the views of its participants, among them the AER staff and Dr. Michael Alba, dean of De La Salle's College of Business and Economics. We had open and frank discussions with representatives of various nongovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and the youth.

Leaving Metro Manila is always a rewarding experience, and every chance I get to visit another part of the country only reinforces my view that we have to find a way to maximize local initiatives while rebuilding or improving the channels of communications between the national capital region and the rest of the country. Politically, the concerns of the city residents don't seem far removed from Metro Manila's: contempt for the administration, skepticism over its pronouncements and a lack of consensus on what to do. While the residents take pride in Alma Palanca, a graduate of the Palawan State University, placing eighth in the national board exams for civil engineering, they are worried over the deteriorating quality of education everywhere.

The Malampaya oil/gas field and the onset of major mining activities in the province were the two major issues they most often raised. The night before I arrived, Puerto Princesa suffered a five-hour brownout (the result of an equipment breakdown, an announcer from a Hagedorn-owned radio station explained), apparently not an unusual occurrence in the city. The thing is, the 60-40 percent sharing of income from Malampaya gas production (the larger portion going to the national government), hasn't resulted in any income for the province because cases on this matter are still awaiting final resolution by the court. Such income, had it been coming in by now, could have done a lot in helping address many of the province's problems, including the faulty equipment of the local power producer. That it remains unrealized has irritated Palaweños.

The other issue revolves around the division of the province into two. Looking at the province on a map, the upper portion (from Puerto Princesa City onwards) would be reserved for ecotourism, while the lower portion would be opened up to mining activities. Naturally, NGOs are up in arms; the provincial and city government are unsympathetic to them; and the organizations of indigenous peoples have joined the fray. Asked for my opinion on the matter, I had to say this is something Palaweños have to decide for themselves. As for me, I'd counsel anyone advocating traditional mining to go and see Toledo, Cebu, for themselves. I visited Toledo briefly earlier this year, taking a remarkably well-equipped ferry (Muslim-owned, people told me) from San Carlos City (Negros Oriental), which itself is on the cutting edge of development.

In contrast to the optimism and impressive partnership between the private sector and local government in San Carlos City (which is making the transformation from the old plantation economy to a modern agricultural and industrial economy), Toledo is a depressing and dying place. A tricycle driver told me how much wealthier it was when mining companies were still operating there; but the local economy collapsed after the mining interests left; and how the city has become dilapidated and depopulated since then. And so I asked the Puerto Princesa and Palawan residents at the forum what sort of concessions would they be getting in exchange for what the mining companies would be getting from their resources.

Apparently a lot of apple pie in the sky but not much else, judging from the rather sour remarks of one gentleman with a newly opened mining interest in the province. He complained that obtaining a license and the various permits required dealing with a number of government officials who were increasingly becoming greedy, even though he himself claimed closeness to a ranking member of the President's official family. He said he was tempted to shut down his operations until he could get all the red tape squared away.

The two issues, which are vital to the people of Palawan, also illustrate the broader problems faced by the country. Malampaya brings up the issue of fair relationship between the provinces and the national government, as well as the rickety nature of our legal system, which can't swiftly and equitably settle disputes. The issue on mining brings to the fore the fact that national policies are being rammed down people's throats, with the active assistance of local officials, while concerned sectors find themselves hard pressed to make themselves heard or lobby for a fairer deal.

'Tindero'

YOUNG BLOOD

Ariel C. Lalisan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT WAS OUR SEMESTRAL BREAK. I COULD HAVE CHOSEN to go with some of my friends on some excursions, but I opted to stay home and forget my stressful and rather nauseating school life. Being at home for at least a week is more rejuvenating for me than having a dip in a pool or going to the beach or waterfalls. While going out of town can be a lot of fun, at home I can have peace of mind and learn some lessons that I need just very badly.

Our family owns a small *sari-sari* store. When I'm home, I serve as the *tindero*. I really like doing it because I enjoy watching different people pass by. And I have even more fun when people sit on the benches outside.

I am an amateur psychologist and I am fond of studying the behavior of people. So when people drop by the store, I listen discreetly to their conversations and formulate theories about how they would act in certain situations. Sometimes, I imagine how a certain person looked like and how he behaved when he was younger. Other times, I just listen to what they are saying and try to guess what prompted them to say such things. It makes me smile to see how happy they appear to be as they talk about things that seem petty to me.

In just two or three days as a *tindero*, I heard more than a hundred stories. It was not because people were talkative, but everyone had his own story. And from the expressions on their faces alone, from the intensity of their voices or the speed of their speech, I could hear their souls speak of their agony or joy.

One time, two peddlers happened to stop by the store. I saw them approaching with rolls of Romblon sleeping mats woven from strips of dry and dyed leaves. It was noon and they were drenched in sweat, and I could smell them from several feet away. They looked tired and weary. They did not speak any word as they sat there, taking deep breaths and staring blankly at the dusty road.

I did not ask if they wanted to buy anything, for I knew that all they wanted was to take shelter from the heat of the sun. When they started speaking, I recognized the accent and I knew then that they belonged to an indigenous tribe.

They asked me if they could take a nap on the benches. I automatically said yes, even if I knew that their presence there would keep our customers away, especially the students of the high school a block away. In fact, many of those who happened to pass by openly stared at them for a few moments, wondering who were those two strange-looking men lying on the benches.

I was busy attending to somebody when I noticed a woman in uniform (a teacher, maybe) stop by and examined the mats the two men had laid on the table. She was obviously impressed by their simple designs. She especially liked one whose sides were adorned with interwoven fuchsia and deep green strips.

One of the men suddenly woke up from his nap and told the woman she could have the mat for P120. The latter acted surprised and protested that the price was too high. "*Pwede P60 na lang?*" she bargained.

The man gave her a bitter smile and said with a tone of condescension. "*Di pwede*, ma'am."

A bit of a psy-war began. She pointed to the sides which were uneven and said she was able to buy a mat that was exactly like it from another peddler for only P60.

"*Buri man siguro*, ma'am," the man reasoned out, and proceeded to compare the qualities of a *buri* mat and a Romblon mat. He also said the mat she had bought before might be smaller than his mats.

The teacher persisted in asking for a bargain, offering to buy two for P120. The man said he would sell them for P200.

The exchange ended with the teacher dropping the mats and leaving with a look of disappointment. The man again wore his bitter and pitiful smile.

I could see his frustration and I half-expected him to run after her and say she could have two for P150. But the man remained seated and talked to me instead, knowing I was following closely his unsuccessful bid to sell his stuff.

"*Grabe pud si* ma'am, *no?*" he said quietly. Then he launched into a narration of how much effort it took to make the mats and bring them to town.

I listened to him and noticed how hard he was trying to mask his disappointment, and maybe despair, with his smile. But I felt he was dignified by his labor.

The man continued to sit there, waiting for his companion to wake up. He seemed to be pondering something very deeply.

What was he thinking about? I had no way of knowing. I draw pictures of him and his family in my mind: his wife and his children eagerly waiting at their door for his return and for the goods he would bring to them. I could feel how badly he needed to make a sale.

Then it was time for them to go. With the bundles of mats on their shoulders, they walked toward the public market, where they would have to meet other potential buyers and where more "educated" people could see and examine their product.

As they moved away, the conversation between the peddler and the woman kept coming back to me. I found it ironic that it was from the simple man that I learned a lesson, and not from the one whose profession was to teach. It was a simple lesson: of respect for oneself and holding others in high regard.

When classes start, I will have to travel again some 72 kilometers to the university. There, I will continue to learn the necessary skills in my chosen field of study. But right at home, in our little store, I know I will continue to learn the values necessary for life.

Ariel C. Lalisan, 18, is a junior in BS Education (major in Physics) at the Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal, South Cotabato.

THEY SAID

Freedom for all

"I'd like people to say I'm a person who always wanted to be free and wanted it not only for myself. Freedom is for all human beings."

—The late civil rights icon Rosa Parks whose refusal to yield her bus seat to a white American sparked a movement to end racial segregation in the United States

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GSIS is in better position to provide motorists CTPL

HONESTO C. GENERAL, IN HIS Nov. 21 column, describes the offer of the Government Service Insurance System to cover motor vehicles with Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurance coverage as "preposterous."

The target beneficiaries of a CTPL insurance are car owners, the injured public and the government. Under the present system, all these parties are ill-served and defrauded. Many accident victims cannot collect indemnity. On the other hand, well-meaning owners are left to shoulder the indemnity all by themselves despite having paid for their insurance premiums.

At the same time, the government is deprived of taxes due on the insurance premiums. In 2003, for example, according to the Insurance Commission, 4.3 million vehicles were registered. The insurance premiums for that number of vehicles were estimated at P2.5 billion, on which the government could have collected some P579 million in taxes.

However, only P1.3 billion in premiums, or less than one-half of premiums due, were reported by the insurance companies which paid only P310 million in taxes. In other words, the government was cheated of P268 million. This also indicates the extent of fraud in the CTPL business. In fact, almost one out of every two CTPL policies is unreported and therefore fake. Besides, the present system is chaotic and ready-made for insurance fraud.

The GSIS CTPL proposal will not establish a monopoly. The GSIS partner, National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines (NRCP), has invited its stockholders to participate by way of reinsurance.

The GSIS offers an integrated vehicle registration system wherein the payment of premiums for CTPL is incorporated in the registration cost. The GSIS assumes the CTPL coverage and assures payment of claims within 5-10 days from the submission of the adjuster's final report. With P308 billion in assets, the GSIS can easily pay all legitimate claims for indemnity. Besides, it has 40 branches, 6 district offices and 11 satellite offices all over the country, which can service such claims. As for the taxes on premiums, they are automatically remitted to the national government.

Finally, what the GSIS aims to address is the lack of insurance coverage for millions of commuters and motorists. The GSIS believes that public safety involves not only regulation and law enforcement but also contingent measures, like an insurance system, preferably supplied by government as the ultimate entity tasked with promoting and protecting the public welfare.

We respect General's opinion, but we believe that on this matter, he failed to consider all aspects.

—JOSEFINA L. VALERA,
senior vice president,
General Insurance Group,
josefinalvalera@yahoo.com

Betrayal of national interest worse than rape

THE EDITORIAL, TITLED "LITTLE brown brother," (PDI, 11/18/05), in my view, should have included the more damning consequence of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's misdeed.

In a capsule, his fawning act reinforced the image of a country so obeisant to the United States, rendering laughable the Philippines' claim that it is independent and a "Strong Republic."

But going beyond that, Gonzalez's act raises questions about our understanding of what sovereignty means and requires, or what a republic stands for. It could as well affect other nations' treatment of our country and citizens (remember the OFWs).

Our justice secretary, by his servile act, inflicted more harm to our country and people than the individuals who allegedly committed the rape.

By trashing the preeminent obligation of the Philippine court to render justice to one of its aggrieved citizens just so he can serve the interest of a foreign country, Gonzalez, not only demeaned and destroyed the dignity of his office, he also trampled on and besmirched the integrity of the country's justice system.

Let us not forget that without a functioning justice system, there cannot be a civil society.

As narrow as it may sound, President Macapagal-Arroyo, by keeping Gonzalez in her Cabinet, is as guilty of treason as he is.

That Ms Arroyo would obsequiously rape her own people's interest to curry favor with the United States underscores her unfitness to enjoy the honor and privileges of the office she now holds.

—BONIFACIO SIOSON,
12 Wilkenda Avenue,
East Haven, CT. 06512

If business, politics mix

WE DO NOT HAVE A PROBLEM with people wanting to raise the profits from their business ventures. Our problem is when men and women in business run for and join public office and then use the power and authority derived from their positions to advance their business interests.

Yes, business generates employment. But the owners should not use a public office for their personal interests. They'd be better leaving governance to those who are truly called for it.

What businessmen can do is support those who have the welfare of the Filipino poor in their hearts and keep their business operations legal and productive and beneficial in all aspects (economic, social, political, moral, environmental, etc.). We urge businessmen-turned-politicians to restrain themselves from corrupt practices.

Another thing: although there are politicians who truly have the calling, many of them are blinded by the support of corrupt businessmen around them. These politicians should not submit to the importunings of the latter. They should make sure the country and the people do not get neglected. They should lead by good example and stand up as models of truth, honesty and integrity.

On the brighter side, congratulations to our men and women in the police force, and to all the people who cooperated and obeyed rules and regulations for a peaceful observance of this year's All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in the Philippines.

—TERESITA UY,
tatet_uy@hotmail.com

Complaints meant to harass

I WRITE IN CONNECTION WITH the news item titled, "Tollway firm sues ex-chair for estafa," under the byline of Marlon Ramos. (PDI, 11/08/05)

The criminal complaints for estafa, filed by Star Infrastructure Development Corp. (SIDC) against me, were meant to divert attention from an initiative of mine, questioning the unlawful, fraudulent transfer and disposition of Strategic Alliance Development Corp.'s (SADC) 48-percent shareholdings in SIDC. (I am the controlling stockholder of SADC.)

It was grossly unfair of Ramos to quote extensively lawyer Bede Tabalingcos' assertions (some of which went beyond the allegations in the complaints against me), without making a similar effort to report my refutation of the charges in my counteraffidavits which are all on file at the prosecutor's office in Pasig City.

Surely, had Ramos been objective enough to examine the records of the 11 cases (not 21, as claimed by Tabalingcos), he would have found out that the complaints were plain harassment suits.

First, Ramos would have learned from SIDC's own complaint-affidavits that, contrary to Tabalingcos' claim, the accusations against me were not supported by an audit report from Sycip Gorres Velayo and Co.

Second, Ramos would have known that, contrary to Tabalingcos' claim, I did not make any unauthorized disbursements of SIDC funds; that the disbursements were made in accordance with the procedures and standards prescribed by the SIDC board of directors in its Resolution No. BD-013-07 and Resolution No. BD-09-2001; that I was only one of the signatories to the checks in question (and that the other signatories were not similarly charged with estafa); and that the questioned disbursements were lawful advances to contractors, received by the intended payee corporations, and duly recorded in the books of the corporation.

That the complaints were harassment suits is evident from the fact that SIDC could have filed a single complaint against me; instead it chose to file multiple complaints singling me out as a signatory to the questioned checks while shielding and sparing my co-signatories.

—CEZAR T. QUIAMBAO,
quiambao@globelines.com.ph

It is wrong for Mr. Quiambao to say that I did not give him a chance to speak about the charges raised against him by the SIDC. In fact, his reply to the charges was included in the last part of my story.

It was not for me, as a reporter, to make a judgment on whether the accusations made against him were just plain harassment. I am not a judge. As a journalist, my job is to report the facts, not to speculate what could be behind them.

—MARLON RAMOS,
correspondent,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

The Lord's role in success

THE ARTICLE "THE STORY OF Henry Sy" AS told by his daughter Teresita Sy (PDI, 10/24/05) was very, very inspiring. Indeed, success is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration. Virtues such as patience and fortitude are very obvious in her story.

However, she did not mention anything about the power of prayer in successful ventures.

May I add that I'm sure the Sy family members recognize that all they have today comes from the Lord.

Let us all thank the Lord for what we are today.

—DR. ELVI B. MARI,
Alaminos, Laguna

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Bush's American dream, other peoples' nightmare

THIS IS REGARDING RINA JIMENEZ-David's column titled, "Another avenue for Subic rape victim." (PDI, 11/08/05) She concluded that the recent Subic rape case could be, among other things, a make-or-break case on the viability of the Visiting Forces Agreement. Likewise, in her column titled, "GMA needs credible appointee to Ombudsman post," (PDI, 11/8/05) Belinda Olivares-Cunanan said that the rape case might be used to advocate the abrogation of the VFA.

Earlier, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, apparently defending the controversial RP-US military training exercise in Western Mindanao, warned that Southeast Asia could be the next haven of international terrorists. But in my opinion, Southeast Asia would be more at risk of international terrorist attacks due to the presence of American troops in the region, particularly in the Philippines.

According to US Sen. Sam Brownback, the Philippines could be the next Afghanistan on the war on terrorism. That is a scary statement, considering what happened to Afghanistan.

The United States' invasion of Afghanistan, just to get Osama bin Laden, evokes images of the man who burned his house to get rid of a mouse inside. Bin Laden may be an odious, psychopathic murderer, but the end does not and will never justify the means.

Bin Laden is a murderous tyrant who deserves condemnation by all civilized nations. However, I'm unable to find the slightest justification for the United States' massive military strikes against the impoverished Afghanistan.

If we are to believe the remarks of Brownback, the Abu Sayyaf group, which has been linked to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, can be used as a sloppy excuse for direct foreign intervention, if and when the deployment of American troops here, in the guise of a joint US-Filipino military exercise, is declared unconstitutional. America will argue that the deployment of US troops here is within the framework of the global campaign against terrorism.

American policy is driven, as always, by power and greed; sadly the Bush administration is obsessed with the "American dream" of dominating the planet and imposing its ideals on other peoples.

—EMMANUEL LJ. MAPILI,
House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal,
Commonwealth Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Albay townsfolk save last frontier

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Malinao, Albay

THREE YEARS AGO, THE DIVERSE ECOLOGICAL life of Mount Malinao, one of several mountains that form a volcanic chain in Bicol, faced danger due to illegal cutting of trees, hunting, *kaingin* (slash-and-burn) farming and garbage dumping.

The number of species declined and the ecosystem deteriorated in Malinao, 31.5 km north of Albay's capital city of Legazpi, according to people who frequent the place.

That picture changed after the municipal government of Malinao declared the mountain a biodiversity conservation and protected area. The residents, especially those living on the periphery, have joined hands to make it so.

The community response came after a team from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños' Institute of Biological Science (UPLB-IBS) conducted almost three years of exploration in Malinao that ended on March 27, 2002.

The team presented its findings to the local community and recommended that all means be exhausted to protect Malinao town's last frontier.

UPLB-IBS professor Jaycee Gonzales said the mountain had a peculiar wildlife habitat. Rare and endangered creatures endemic in its forests were threatened, the team said, pointing out that many of the villagers depended much on the place for livelihood.

Malinao, which means "clear," is part of Bicol's volcanic chain that includes Mounts Mayon and Masaraga in Albay, and Iriga and Isarog in Camarines Sur.

It has intrigued historians and hikers who say that the mountain doesn't actually live up to its name. Clouds often cover its peak, depriving them of a beautiful sight, they say.

Prevented

Three years after the UPLB-IBS team raised its suggestions, the local community has witnessed the success of the Malinao program, involving ecological balance management, rehabilitation and an awareness campaign, implemented by the local government.

Tourism-in-charge German Gonzaga said forest guards had been deployed, a youth mountaineering and monitoring group had been formed, and an information drive had been launched in the villages.

Bantay Gubat volunteers have apprehended illegal wildlife poachers coming from Legazpi and Tabaco cities.

By helping to protect and conserve the endangered species, the residents have noted an increase in the population of wild animals, such as boars, monkeys, flying fruit bats, snakes and native ducks in the mountain.

Gonzaga also said the people were actively participating in activities to replant and preserve the mountain's trees. An increase in hardwood species, such as narra and molave, has been noted although their actual count has yet to be recorded.

As a result of the local initiatives, the Philippine fairy blue eagle and other endangered species, like the Kapa-Kapa medinilla (belonging to the *Melastomaceae* family) and 15 other species of birds, frogs and lizards, four species of dipterocarps and a big number of orchid varieties, have been saved from near extinction.

"It's a wake-up call for all us here, knowing that all the species are endemic only in Albay. Protecting them is our top priority, that's why we heeded all the recommendations of the expedition experts and the very reason why we [have] come this far," Mayor Emily Kare said.

More explorations

Kare said that aside from programs supported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the municipal government was spearheading more explorations, especially to the crater of the 1,548-meter Malinao, which is believed to have a more diverse and still undiscovered lush vegetation.

She said UPLB might be invited again to assess if the mountain could be considered a national park because of its protected diverse biological ecosystems. Further explorations, she said, would also enhance the local eco-tourism program that would provide alternative livelihood for the residents.

Malinao also has abaca plantations in its slopes—the source of local abaca weavers—and other commercial crops in selected areas.

Community immersion

Gonzaga said that as part of the conservation and preservation efforts, tourists and environment enthusiasts would be invited to live with the local folk so that they could fully understand the community's role in monitoring and protecting the mountain.

He said the residents would usually tell visitors that in spite of their dependence on resources from the mountain, they were willing to sacrifice to protect it for future generations.

"All throughout the year, we encourage hiking for a cause, encouraging our youth mountaineering club to guide hikers in seeing the new life of Mount Malinao while educating them about the endangered species dwelling in the mountain," the official said.

"And more than that, we even tap former poachers and offenders to be part of Bantay Gubat for them to understand why we're protecting this last frontier."

MOUNT Malinao, a diverse biodiversity site in Albay, is relieved from environmental stress through a local government initiative. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AFPSLAI @ 33 :
Distinctive Service, Lasting Partnerships

CHIEF OF STAFF
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY

Message

Savings and entrepreneurship are the lifeline of national development. Like blood, the intelligent circulation of financial resources fuels growth by bringing the needed economic nourishment to vital sectors and stimulating stakeholders' ingenuity and further investment.

We look no further in showing the manifest link of corporate success and community development than in the proud legacy of the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Incorporated (AFPSLAI). True to its mission of being a reliable custodian of its clientele's earnings and a driving force encouraging the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit, AFPSLAI has remained an industry leader in providing our valued clients and customers with innovative, affordable and trustworthy products and services. Through its customer-driven approach and client-oriented management, it has ensured profitability, reliability and reinvigorated service for its loyal clientele.

Beyond the realization of its corporate vision, there lies the organization's noble aim to nurture and galvanize trust and solidarity between its depositors and the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. More than being a bellwether brand in the non-stock savings and loan industry, AFPSLAI hopes to build a community of stakeholders with a shared aspiration for corporate growth, respectability and prosperity.

I thus express my sincerest felicitations and congratulations to the trustees, corporate officers, employees and members of the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Incorporated in celebrating your 33rd anniversary. Your theme for this year's anniversary, "AFPSLAI at 33. Distinctive Service and Lasting Partnerships" only highlights the enduring commitment of the men and women of your organization to strengthen the teamwork between the management and the depositors. I am certain that you will continue to prosper and remain an industry leader for many years to come.

Congratulations and God Bless!

GENEROSO S SENGA
General AFP

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Interior and Local Government
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, PNP
Camp Crame, Quezon City

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. on this auspicious occasion.

As AFPSLAI commemorates its 33rd anniversary, it can look back with justifiable pride to the invaluable services it has rendered to ensure the economic well-being of the members of the military and the police force.

The theme of its celebration, 'AFPSLAI at 33: Distinctive Service and Lasting Partnerships', is therefore very appropriate, for the very nature of its work calls for sincere dedication to service and building partnerships of trust with all its members.

My hope is that AFPSLAI will continue to grow and remain a constant and reliable partner of the men and women in uniform so that they can look forward to a better future for themselves and their families in the years ahead.

Mabuhay and more power!

ARTURO C LOMIBAO
Police Director General

Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc
Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

MESSAGE

From its humble beginnings, AFPSLAI has evolved into a major financial institution, serving its members and emerging stronger and more responsive to their needs. This thrust of fostering lasting partnerships has become the strongest driving force propelling the Association to innovate and initiate change.

Adding a social dimension to its existence through its range of socio-civic projects including scholarship programs, outreach projects, livelihood trainings and recognition of successful member-entrepreneurs, have helped members and their dependents realize their potentials, supporting them in the attainment of their goals and aspirations which in turn have benefited not only their lives but the lives of people in their respective communities.

Moving forward into the future, AFPSLAI is dedicated to pursue its vision of becoming the best managed, most stable and preferred financial institution and with the continued loyalty and patronage of its members, paralleled by its committed workforce and reinforced by its Management and Board of Trustees, AFPSLAI is ready to face more challenges ahead!

Mabuhay and Happy Anniversary!

P/DIR RUFINO G IBAY JR RET
President & CEO

CORPORATE MILESTONES

Financial and Operational Highlights

- Total assets as of end-September 2005 stood at P36.3B, an increment of P1.3B or 4% from the 2004 year-end level of P34.92B.
- Total loans generated in September 2005 amounted to P1.71B.
- Total membership stood at 430,186 as of end-September 2005,

The thrust of AFPSLAI has evolved thru the years...
Breaking traditional barriers...
Setting New Trends...
Moving Forward with New Perspectives...

New Corporate Philosophy

Vision

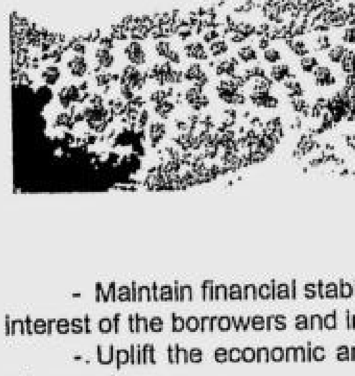
We are the best-managed, most stable and preferred financial institution for product innovation, service excellence, and social responsiveness.

Mission

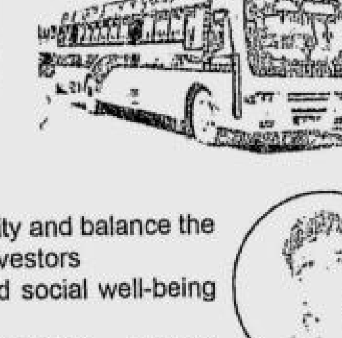
Subscribing to the principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency, we are committed to:

- Promote the culture of saving and responsible borrowing, and the values of industry and entrepreneurship
- Maintain financial stability and balance the interest of the borrowers and investors
- Uplift the economic and social well-being of members
- Ensure service excellence through innovation and technology
- Provide opportunities for the development and career advancement of employees
- Promote social responsibility

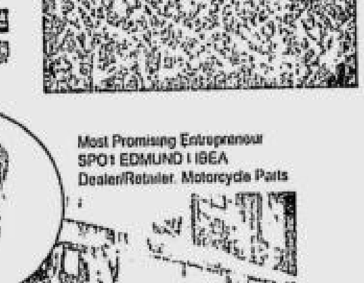
Search for Successful Member-Entrepreneurs of the Year 2005



Outstanding Member-Entrepreneur of the Year
COL FRANCISCO P GALAGAR PA RET
Galagar Farm

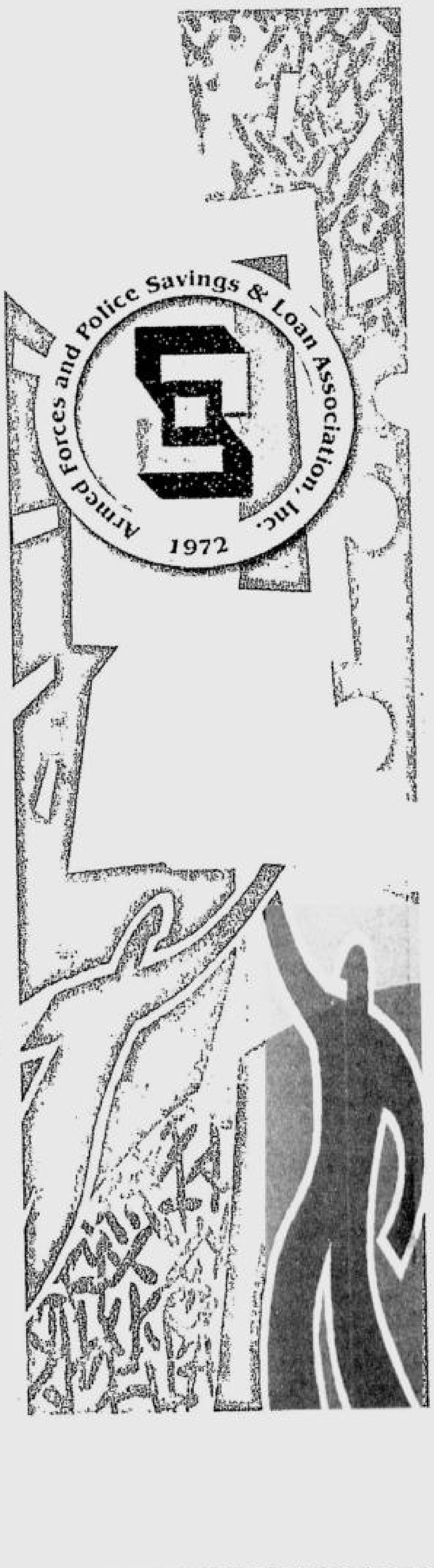


Maunlad Award
SPO2 ESPIRIDION L CANONEO
Transportation Service

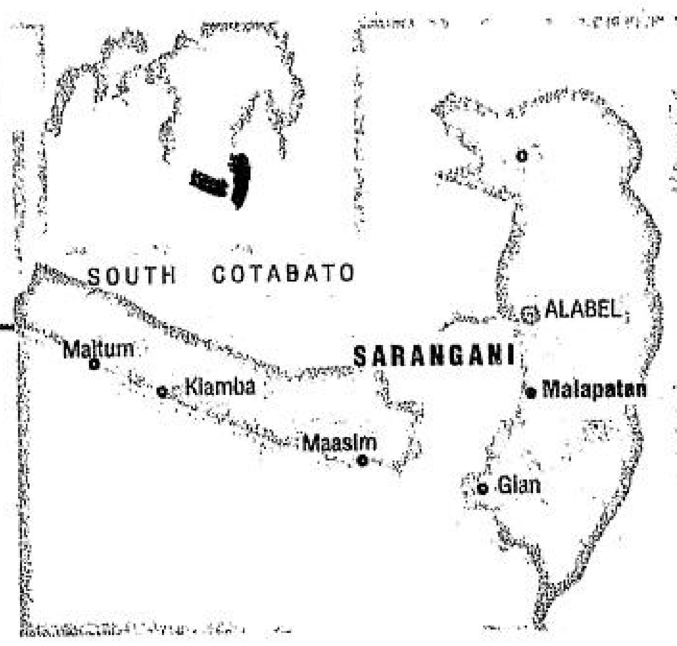


Malikhain Award
COL GIL B TANGCALAGAN PC RET
Poultry & Pineapple Plantation

Most Promising Entrepreneur
SPO1 EDMUND I IBEA
Dealer/Retailer, Motorcycle Parts



Armed Forces and Police Savings & Loan Association, Inc.
1972



DOH seeks to quarantine village of meningo victim

MALAPATAN, SARANGANI—Health Secretary Francisco Duque yesterday recommended the quarantine of a village here following the death of a 5-year-old boy due to meningococcemia.

Duque made the statement in an interview with RMN Radyo Agong just as his department sent a team of medical workers to check the reported meningococcemia case that caused the boy's death.

In the radio interview, Duque also said everyone who came into contact with the boy should be checked and given immediate medical attention.

Duque also urged residents to strictly observe sanitation in their surroundings to prevent the occurrence of meningococcemia and other communicable diseases.

Diosdado Salazar Jr., who died Sunday evening at the General Santos City Hospital (GSCH) while undergoing treatment, was brought back to his residence in Purok Masagana in Barangay Lun Masla in Malapatan on Monday dawn.

He was immediately buried in compliance with instructions given by doctors at the GSCH.

Dr. Lalaine Calonzo, GSCH medical director, confirmed that the patient died of meningococcemia.

Salazar was the second meningo patient admitted to the GSCH. Last year, another victim from Polomok, South Cotabato was also treated at the hospital.

The first meningo case was reported in Glan town, this province two years ago. The victim, however, survived.

Calonzo said appropriate precautions had been taken at the hospital to prevent the bacteria from infecting other patients and hospital personnel.

On Monday, health authorities in the province visited Lun Masla village to determine the origin of the disease and distribute medicines to people who were exposed to the victim.

They emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings to prevent the outbreak of any disease.

In Davao City, a young girl also died due to meningo on Monday.

Dr. Josephine Villafuerte, Davao City health officer, said the girl showed signs of having the disease when she was hospitalized last Sunday at the Brokenshire Hospital.

The girl, whose family requested health officials that her identity and home address be withheld, died on Monday night, becoming the first casualty in the city in months.

The body was immediately placed in the morgue and quarantined, including the hospital room where the victim stayed and her family's residence. *Aquiles Z. Zonio and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

3 get death for kidnapping

CITY OF MALOLOS—THREE MEN ACCUSED of kidnapping a Chinese-Filipino businessman in 2002 were sentenced to death by a regional trial court judge here on Tuesday.

Judge Crisanto Concepcion found Jay Gregorio, Rolando Estrella and Ricardo Salazar guilty of kidnap-for-ransom charges when they abducted businessman Jimmy Ting in Barangay Iba in Meycauayan, Bulacan, on Oct. 8, 2002.

Concepcion sentenced their two companions, Efren Gascon and Danilo Bergonia, to life imprisonment.

Court records showed the group demanded P50 million from Ting's family in exchange for his release.

Ting was held for almost a week in safe houses in Pangasinan and Ilocos Norte.

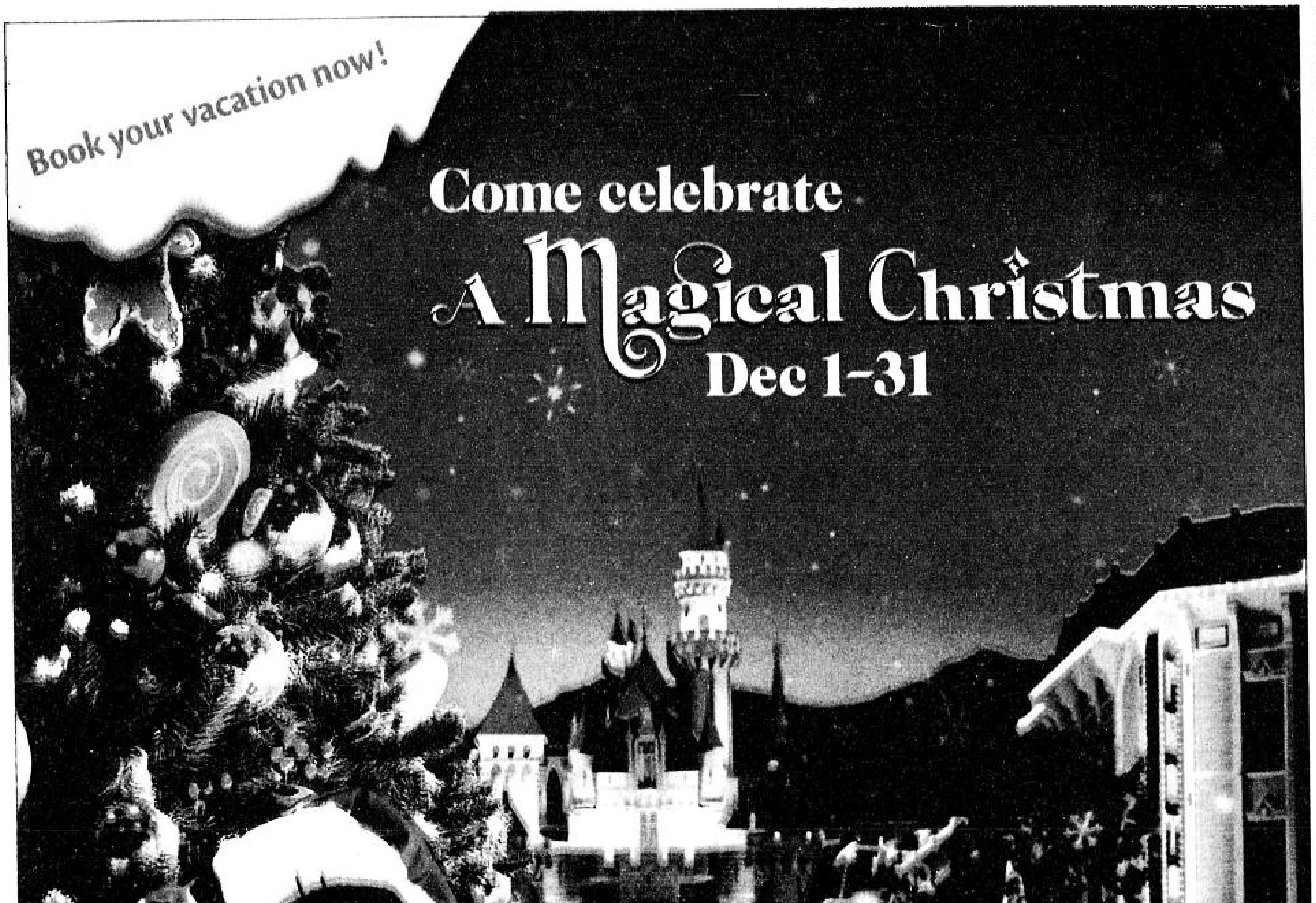
The suspects met Ting's relatives in different gasoline stations on North Luzon Expressway in Bulacan during his captivity for the gradual payoff of the ransom.

The court said the family gave the suspects P1.8 million before the suspects were arrested in a series of operations in Pangasinan and Ilocos Norte.

Teresita Ang See, chair of the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Order, hailed Concepcion's speedy resolution of the case.

Ang See said the cooperation of Ting's family contributed to the immediate resolution of the case.

In some cases, relatives of the victims refused to coordinate with the police and this would hamper the progress of the case, she said. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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Fortune Travel	2 242 2774	Philippine Airlines	2 818 6449	Sunbright Tours and Travel Corp	2 524 0898
Golden World Travel	2 241 6968	Reli Tours and Travel Agency	2 812 3456	Transnational Travel and Tours	2 753 3388
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Hong Kong Disneyland

There's magic at work

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Inquirer
menu

Bishops tell Defensor: We won't buckle down

By Christian V. Esguerra

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY MICHAEL Defensor might just waste his time when he meets with three Samar bishops over logging in the province tomorrow.

Bishop Leonardo Medroso of Borongan said it was next to impossible for him and the other bishops of the province to accept Defensor's decision to allow Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC) to cut trees in Samar's rich forest reserve and nature park.

"That will be impossible," he told the INQUIRER on Tuesday night. "There will be no compromises."

Medroso, along with Bishops Jose Palma of Calbayog and Emmanuel Trance of Catarman, are set to meet with Defensor at the residence of the archbishop of Palo, Leyte tomorrow morning.

Medroso said it was Defensor, a Cabinet secretary cum political operator of the Arroyo administration, who had sought the meeting last week.

He said he and the other bishops were expecting Defensor to talk them out of their strong position condemning the secretary's decision.

"We won't be fooled," he said. "This is not just our fight but that of the people of Samar. This is a matter of their survival."

Early this month, the three bishops, including Bishop Angel Hobayan, bishop emeritus of Catarman, held a press conference collectively condemning the apparent privilege awarded by Defensor to Enrile.

Enrile's company has a timber license agreement allowing it to log in 95,770 hectares that fall within the Samar Integrated Forest Reserve (SIFR) and the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP). Samar is one of the world's 200 ecologically richest regions.

"The issue of the DENR recognizing the right of SJTC is yet another glaring example of our government with its example of patronage politics," Palma said.

"It is a government listening to the voice of one man, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, and turning a deaf ear to the voice of over one million Samareños."

Enrile has dared critics of the logging permit to file charges against him, saying he had a right to operate the logging concession because he bought it.

Former governor Lutgardo Barbo of Samar, a lawyer, said Enrile faced charges of violating the anti-graft and corruption law if it was proven that he used his position as senator to get the logging permit.

CANCEL ALL
LARGE SCALE LOGGING
PRES. ARR

RESIDENTS of towns in Quezon province that suffered tragedies as a result of logging light candles in front of the DENR office in Quezon City to pray that the painful lessons their communities learned on the harms of logging could be learned.
JOAN BONDOC

Lafayette says mine spill not 'a Marcopper'

By Blanche S. Rivera

RAPU-RAPU, ALBAY—AUSTRALIAN mining firm Lafayette Mining Ltd yesterday maintained that the two mine spills that forced the government to suspend its gold milling operations, were "no Marcopper (incident)."

Lafayette chief executive officer Andrew McIlwain made the assertion as the independent team of experts tapped by the government to investigate the operations of the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project, arrived here yesterday afternoon.

"I don't, by any means, condone what happened, but it's no Marcopper... it's no Marinduque. It's not that magnitude," McIlwain said in an interview.

He said the company has embarked on an intensive rehabilitation of its tailings dam as required by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to ensure that there will be no repeat of the spill in the course of its six-year mining operations.

The Rapu-Rapu project has been blamed for fish kills in the coastal municipalities, after a defective valve caused a mine spill on Oct. 11, and heavy rains triggered the unauthorized discharge of wastewater to nearby creeks going out to the Pacific Ocean on Oct. 31.

McIlwain said Lafayette ordered the Oct. 31 release of wastewater after it became apparent that the lower tailings dam could no longer hold the effluent from the mine tailings and rainwater.

He said this was standard procedure to avoid further damage that could be caused by an overflow.

McIlwain's statement confirmed an Environmental Management Bureau report, and the findings of other environment groups that the second mine spill was not an accident.

MGB director Rey Juan, who accompanied the team to the mine site, urged the nongovernment organizations to submit their fact-finding reports to the MGB so these could be validated by the independent team.

"We are not only addressing the Oct. 11 and Oct. 31 mine spills, but also the whole operations of Lafayette," he said.

He said the team would have to go back to the systems of Lafayette to check whether these were as efficient as they should be.

The MGB will furnish the independent team copies of Lafayette's environmental compliance certificate and its environmental protection and enhancement program.

The independent team is composed of geologist Carlo Primo David of the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences, engineer Jojo Bacani of the Chamber of Mines' environment committee, Jake Foronda of Lepanto Mines and Mars Bolaños of Benguet Corp.

They will stay at the Rapu-Rapu mine site until tomorrow for the first phase of their investigation.

Study commissioned on burial site of Filipino Muslim hero

COTABATO CITY—SULTAN KUDARAT may be a lesser known Filipino hero but his exploits against the Spaniards went down into history as one of the greatest episodes of the Filipinos' struggle against colonization.

Now, Sultan Kudarat has become the object of a tourism research that also aims to find out where he was exactly buried after his death in 1671.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong has commissioned a group to locate the exact spot where Sultan Muhammad Dipatuan Kudarat was laid to rest.

"It is but fitting that we give Sultan Kudarat this honor by constructing a shrine with a corresponding marker right at his burial ground," said Datumanong, who considered the task as a tourism project for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Kudarat, who headed the once powerful Sultanate of Maguindanao, which included the Zamboanga peninsula, Basilan and part of Davao provinces up to the old Kingdom of Ternate, which is now part of Indonesia, repelled Spanish attempts to invade Sulu and Zamboanga.

ARMM Tourism Secretary Macacuna Pangandaman said initial contacts with local leaders of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur have been made to speed up efforts to pinpoint Kudarat's exact burial site.

The group of researchers, he said, would also use historical records and oral accounts passed to current generations of Maguindanaons.

Some say Kudarat's remains were buried in Barangay Solon in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, while others insist that his graveyard could be found in Barangay Ramitan in Picong (formerly Sultan Gumander town), Lanao del Sur.

Alunan Glang, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, believes the Lanao graveyard to be "authentic" and considered the Maguindanao claim as a "decoy" to deceive enemies.

Glang's perception was shared by peace advocate Bob Anton, who said there were several attempts by suspected treasure hunters to desecrate Kudarat's grave but failed due to strong resistance by Ramitan villagers.

"Every time hunters start digging, thunder and lighting follow," said Anton, quoting accounts from Muslim witnesses.

The graveyard that lies in the vast track of land owned by the late Sangcupan Balindong in Ramitan is now the object of a development study by the autonomous government, according to Pangandaman. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A CRAFTSMAN in Davao City displays the shell of a lantern he made.
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Pampanga execs want patent on lanterns

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—TO preserve the identity and quality of Christmas lanterns here known as "Parul San Fernando," local officials want to trademark the products and have them patented.

Councilor Alex Patio, majority floor leader of the city council, said the pride of this capital city of Pampanga should be protected.

"Many enterprising individuals in other parts of the country have been selling lanterns that seem to be similar to our original designs. Many have been imitating our designs and marketing them... as 'Pampanga parol.' And if the buyers would be made to believe that they're buying authentic Parul San Fernando, they might think that we are producing low-quality lanterns," he said.

Patio said at least 2,000 families are involved in the production of lanterns. Their products are sold in some 100 establishments and makeshift stalls all over the city.

The city government opened on Oct. 27 the Lantern Plaza as an initial measure to protect the "identity" of local lanterns. The area has several stalls selling Parul San Fernando bearing the official seal of this city.

On Dec. 17, the city will host the annual Giant Lantern Festival, locally known as "Ligligan Parul."

Giant lanterns, measuring at least 18 feet in diameter, contain hundreds of colorful light bulbs that interplay with music.

Ten villages in the city are expected to participate in this year's event. The city government has given each village P111,000 to produce their entries. The INQUIRER learned that at least P300,000 is needed to make a giant lantern.

Barangay San Felipe won the grand prize in the Ligligan Parul in the last three years. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Mining executive preaches new waste technology

BAGUIO CITY—A DOCUMENTARY FILM on the contamination of the Abra River allegedly due to chemical leaks from the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) in Mankayan, Benguet was launched last week at the University of the Philippines Baguio.

"Sabidong Ti Balitok' (Ilocano for "toxic gold"), which was filmed by the environmental and advocacy group Tan-aw Media Collective, documented the accounts of people living along the Abra River, whose livelihood was displaced by spillage from Lepanto's tailings dam.

The 33-minute film followed an investigative mission that was conducted in May by experts from local universities, medical groups and militants. It was financed by the Save the Abra River Movement (STARM).

On Nov. 18, a day after the film's launching, LCMC officials presented participants in the 52nd Mine Safety and Environment Conference here a new effluent management system that asserted the company's investment in cleaning up the Abra River.

Jake Foronda, LCMC project development manager, said the firm combined different methods of recycling and cleaning effluents to ensure that wastes contained by their tailings dam are no longer harmful.

Foronda said most mines had phased out a method of cleaning effluents by introducing alkaline chlorine treatments because residual chlorine destroyed marine life.

He said modern mines combined methods that recovered cyanide for recycling, introduced biological agents to chemically restore water quality, and a natural process of decongestion to dilute leftover chemicals in wastewater in their tailings dams.

Foronda said the LCMC process was thorough because it used many of these accepted ecologically friendly methods of recycling mine waste.

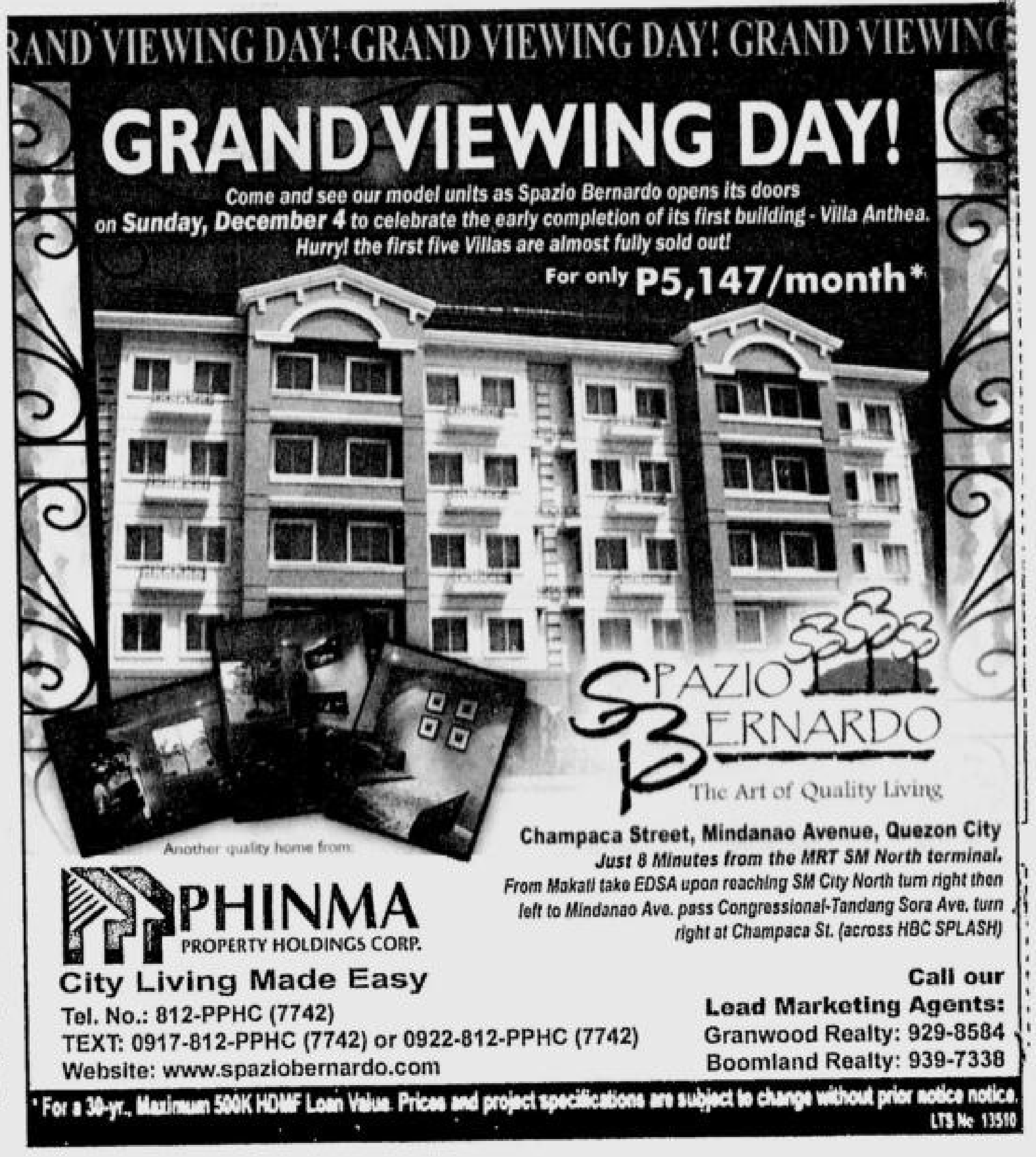
The film tried to dispute the firm's technology.

"Aside from witnessing accounts [of toxic waste and recurring damages to the communities], we were able to listen to the stories of the people living along the Abra River," said Audrey Beltran, the film's project manager.

Dr. Anna Marie Leung, a STARM convenor, said Abra River's contamination could be detected from the deterioration of rice land and the loss of fish in rivers in Mankayan town in Benguet and Quirino and Cervantes towns Ilocos Sur.

"Abra River means so many things to many people. When we watch this film, let us think about the extent of damage, which the Lepanto mine, has caused. The mine has been operating for 69 years, so you could just imagine the extent of damage," Leung said during the film's launching.

Aside from the environmental impact of mine wastes, the film featured the dispute between the company and the Lepanto Employees Union, which took three months to resolve. *Desiree Caluza with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Rev. Moon here today

NOTED KOREAN RELIGIOUS LEADER SUN Myung Moon arrives in Manila today to launch the Universal Peace Federation, a new global organization of civic and religious leaders dedicated to the making of peace all over the world.

The visit is the 79th leg of a 100-city tour to launch the federation in every continent and region of the world. The tour has already taken the 85-year-old evangelist and his wife to cities in the US, Asia and Europe.

The religious leader will speak to an audience of 5,000 that will include leading theologians, academics, political and civic leaders as well as senior clerics of Christian, Muslim and other faiths who have joined Reverend Moon's peace initiatives in the Middle East and around the world.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., chair emeritus of the Presiding Council of the Universal Peace Federation, is among the dignitaries attending the event.

Rev. David Hart, an Anglican priest who helped build the first purpose-built Multi-Faith Centre on a British university campus, says Reverend Moon has a message "for new generations who do not live any longer in the world of traditional national and religious boundaries."

De Venecia will introduce Reverend Moon at the inaugural convocation at the Manila Hotel, which starts at 6:30 p.m. today. The signing of the UPF Philippine Declaration, presentation of Ambassadors for Peace awards and a musical presentation by the El Shaddai Choir will be among the highlights.

The tour began on Sept. 12 in New York.

2 Koreans held

TWO KOREAN NATIONALS WERE HELD BY the Bureau of Customs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Tuesday night for attempting to bring out an estimated P2 million in cash in violation of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) regulations.

At least 14 bundles of cash in P1,000 bills were found in the two hand-carried bags of passengers Kyung Shin Lee and Myoung Kwang Kim at the airport's final security check before boarding Korean Airlines flight KE 8624 bound for Incheon, according to Emi Balatbat, supervisor of the Customs passenger departure division.

Balatbat said that BSP regulations require departing passengers, whether foreigners or Filipinos, carrying more than P10,000 in cash to make a Customs declaration. *Nikko Dizon*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, December 1, 2005
1st Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 26:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 7:21,24-27

Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me: Lord! Lord! will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my heavenly Father.

"So, then, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts accordingly is like a wise man, who built his house on rock. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, but it did not collapse because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not act accordingly, is like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house; it collapsed, and what a terrible fall that was!"

Commentary

Are we to be counted among the wise in God's domain? Do we build our houses on the rock of the Scriptures, the rock of the Word of God Jesus so that nothing can prevail against us? Or do we have divided bases, mixed with sand, the world's foundations of greed, self-absorption, competitiveness and violence? And so with changing weathers all that we have slips and slides and like a fool we live in a collapsing house? Only two choices: Choose—the Word of justice and truth or all the other words jostling for position—Choose and save your life!

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Binondo schools transfer under way

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA CITY OFFICIALS ARE determined to proceed with the relocation of two public schools in Binondo to make way for a housing project despite the opposition of educators and parents of students.

The City Council has already approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Lito Atienza to enter into an agreement with a corporation for the construction and development of a new school complex for students of the Rajah Sulayman and Jose Abad Santos high schools.

The proposed structure will be built on the 21,727 square meter property located at the corner of Numancia and Urbiztondo Streets, San Nicolas, also in Binondo, only a kilometer away from the schools' present site on La Chambre Street.

Another resolution passed by the council also empowers Atienza to enter into a contract with an investor for the development and construction of housing facilities on the property to be vacated by the schools.

Councilor Manuel Zarcal, who authored one of the resolutions, said the transfer would put the students in a new and modern setting conducive to learning since the new school would have a language proficiency center, a teachers' dormitory, shops and other amenities.

He assured the students and their parents that there would be no relocation until the new school complex is finished.

Earlier, some school officials, teachers, parents and students had asked Atienza to stop the project, claiming that the 60-year-old school is one of the last remaining historical landmarks in the city. "The school is already a part of history considering that it was named after a great hero, Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos," said a school official who declined to be identified. Parents and teachers also urged city officials to conduct a public hearing or consultation among the affected parties before pushing through with the project.

Atienza had said the project would greatly benefit the city and the people of Manila.

METROBRIEFS

Mayor Sanchez innocent!

FORMER Laguna Mayor Antonio Sanchez, who is already serving several life terms for murder and rape, has been acquitted along with his wife of tax evasion raps filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue more than a decade ago. Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 264 Judge Leoncio Janolo Jr. acquitted the couple "for lack of evidence." "The voluminous documents presented by the prosecution did not sufficiently convince this Court that accused evaded to pay the proper tax," Janolo said in his 14-page report. Sanchez, former mayor of Calauan, Laguna, is serving several life terms for the rape-slay of Mary Eileen Sarmenta and the killing of her friend Allan Gomez in June 1993, as well as for the killing of a political leader and his son in Laguna in April 1991. The BIR filed the tax evasion cases against Sanchez and his wife Editha in 1995, the same year Sanchez was convicted in the Sarmenta-Gomez case. The government agency accused the couple of trying to evade paying P8,445,903.90 in income taxes for the years 1988, 1990-1993. But the defense said the couple had already availed of a tax amnesty return program. "With the Amnesty Tax Return timely filed to cover other undeclared income, the income tax of accused cannot be assessed to cover those already covered by (the) amnesty program and paid for," Janolo said in his decision. "Standing alone, the documents presented by the prosecution have no leg to stand on," the judge added. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Makati tightens curfew watch

SHUCKS MAN! 'NLABO NAMAN!

WARNING to minors in Makati City: If you stay out of your house beyond 10 p.m., you may spend the night in jail. Police and barangay officials have intensified their watch over the city's streets, looking for underage revelers and vagrants who violate the city's curfew ordinance, City Hall announced yesterday. "We have instructed our fellow barangay officials and the police to continuously apprehend all youth below 18 who violate the curfew to deter them from staying out on the streets at late hours, and protect them from becoming prey to criminal elements," said Makati Liga ng mga Barangay chair Rodolfo Sese in a statement. The tighter watch was initiated as part of Makati's citywide anticrime campaign, as City Hall said its protective services anticipates a rise in street crimes during the holidays. Sese said that from Nov. 1 to 15, 71 minors were rounded up after they were caught outside their houses between 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. They spent the night in detention as punishment. Most of them were from Barangays San Isidro, Guadalupe Nuevo, Pitogo, South Cembo, Singkamas, Bangkal, Carmona, Sta. Cruz, Kasilawan, Cembo, La Paz, Valenzuela, and Pinagkaisahan. In 1998, the city government revived a 1968 curfew ordinance to prevent violence among teen fraternities and gangs. In 2001, the City Council strengthened the curfew ordinance by amending its provisions on fines and penalties. Under the new policy, first time violators face detention with a fine of P500 added for the second violation. Third time offenders may either be detained for 15 days or fined P1,500, or both, depending on the court. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Cainta police chief relieved

THE EXPLOSION of a pillbox in Cainta, Rizal three days ago did little damage but it was enough to trigger the temporary relief of a police chief and two of his men. Cainta Police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz and two police noncommissioned officers have been relieved of their posts for alleged "operational lapses" in responding to a minor explosion on Monday morning, Rizal Provincial Police director Freddie Panen said. This will ensure the independence of the ongoing investigation into their conduct, he added. Supt. Pierre Bucsit has been designated as the town's police chief temporarily. Police said a homemade pillbox exploded at about 9 a.m. Monday in front of the house of election lawyer and former Commission on Elections Regional Director Roque Bello in Brookside Subdivision. The explosion shattered several windows and left a small crater on the ground, a statement from the Philippine National Police Headquarters in Camp Crame said. It noted that the police response "was very slow" and the town police "(failed) to call the services of the Scene of the Crime Operation for technical investigation," a standard operating procedure. The town police also failed to immediately report the incident, the statement added. But a Cainta policeman told the INQUIRER that operatives from the Explosive and Ordnance Division went to the area and investigators also prepared a spot report on the incident. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Motorbike theft gang head falls

THE ALLEGED leader of a motorcyle theft syndicate operating in Metro Manila was arrested in Malabon City yesterday morning by operatives of the Northern Police District Intelligence Unit. DPIU head Chief Insp. Jimili Macaraeg identified the suspect as Danilo Imutan, 35, of Hito St., Barangay Longos, Malabon City. Seized from him was a Kawasaki motorcycle that had been stolen in Las Piñas City on Nov. 29. Macaraeg said Imutan's group was part of a car theft group and an even bigger syndicate that operates in various parts of Metro Manila. "The syndicate uses depressed areas as a base for safekeeping while waiting for other motor vehicles that could fill up an entire trailer truck," he added. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Taiwanese trader arrested

IT WAS the drugs and unlicensed guns that did him in. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday presented to media Taiwanese businessman Chen Tung Hsing, 51, who was arrested last week in Makati City for possession of illegal drugs and firearms. Another suspect, Tseng Feng Tung, remains at large. The NBI Criminal Intelligence Division (CRID) raided the suspects' house at 205 Orbit St., Bel Air 2 Village after receiving reports that the two were involved in gun smuggling. The agents seized 10 vials of injectible ketamine and two sachets of ketamine powder during the raid, apart from small amounts of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and marijuana leaves. Special Investigator Glenn Acal of the NBI CRID said a vial of ketamine could produce 10 to 15 tablets worth P1,000 each. Also confiscated were a loaded Jericho 9 mm pistol, a Garand rifle, a pen gun with a silencer, six magazines of assorted caliber, 140 rounds of ammunition and three holsters. Chen admitted owning the Garand rifle but not the drugs and other firearms. Charges of illegal possession of drugs and firearms have been filed against him in the Makati City Prosecutor's Office. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

UP College of Medicine marks 100th year

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) is celebrating its 100th anniversary tonight at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City. All UPCM alumni are encouraged to attend the celebration at 6 p.m. Attire is semi-formal

A PARADE of floats served as the highlight in yesterday's celebration of the 142nd birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, the founder of the Katipunan, a secret revolutionary society, at the Bonifacio Monument in Balintawak, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Working class hero remembered

By DJ Yap

IF HE WERE ALIVE TODAY, Andres Bonifacio would be leading a different kind of revolution—one that is both cultural and moral, as well as political.

In the same way that he strove to free Filipinos from the clutches of foreign colonizers, the Father of the Philippine Revolution would seek to liberate them from their own weaknesses, according to one of his descendants.

"He would have fought to free Filipinos from their cultural, moral and political bondage," said Gregorio Bonifacio, the great great grandnephew of the working-class hero.

On his 142nd birth anniversary yesterday, the Great Plebeian would have been glad to see an independent Philippines, Gregorio Bonifacio said during the ceremonial wreath-laying at the Bonifacio Monument in Balintawak, Quezon City. "But at the same time, he would realize that we are not really free," said the 32-year-old Gregorio.

His father, Andres, is the grandson of Gregorio Bonifacio, who was the grandson of Procopio, Bonifacio's brother.

"We are still under the dictates of those in power. Many of us are uneducated, and our rights are not being protected," Gregorio added.

City officials, with guest speaker Prof. Randy David and Gregorio, led the celebration of Bonifacio Day highlighted by a parade of floats showing highlights of the hero's life.

Another guest, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., called on Filipinos to search for the truth, just like Bonifacio. "We have to remember the greatness of Bonifacio and must continue to do so," he said.

David, a sociology professor, said history was rife with instances similar to the Tejeros Convention where the voices of the masses were silenced in charting the social order. "This is a theme that recurs throughout our history. As long as the masses have no voice in the national discourse, and while social leadership remains the monopoly of the elite, perhaps Bonifacio's soul may never rest," he said.

With a report from Nancy C. Carvajal

Fire hits building; P15M lost

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AMID INTERMITTENT RAINS yesterday morning, fire struck a building housing residences and commercial establishments in Parañaque City and destroyed P15 million worth of goods and property.

SF01 Teodorico Gatchalian told the INQUIRER that the fire broke out shortly before 6 a.m. in the building located at 8087 Kabihasnan Road corner Quirino Avenue in Barangay San Dionisio.

It started at the second floor, in the stockroom of Julie's Bakeshop which contained plastic ware and other equipment. "The blaze started just as the bakeshop was opening for business yesterday," he said.

At 7:29 a.m., it had spread to an eight-door residential complex and other commercial establishments which included a shoe boutique, a drugstore and a beauty parlor.

The fire was put out at 10:26 a.m.

About 16 families were left homeless. Fortunately, no one was reported killed or hurt, Gatchalian said.

He added that the fire spread quickly as the roof of the building, said to be owned by a certain Antonio Viriña, had no concrete partitions which could have spared the other units.

Fire investigators have yet to determine the cause of the blaze.

Court junks MMDA terminal closure motion

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) has suffered a setback after a Manila court stood pat on its earlier decision that the agency has no power to order the closure of provincial bus terminals.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 has turned down the MMDA's motion for reconsideration, saying he found no cogent reason to reverse the order he issued last Sept. 8.

Pampilo earlier issued Executive Order No. 179, which was enacted upon the recommendation of the MMDA, declaring the closure of bus terminals along major thoroughfares, as "unconstitutional" and "inconsistent with the legal provisions of the Public Service Law."

"The motion for reconsideration filed by the MMDA through the Office of the Solicitor General, with opposition filed by petitioners Viron Transportation Co. Inc. and Mencorp Transportation System Inc., is hereby denied," Pampilo said in his one-paragraph ruling.

The court ruling has further derailed the MMDA's Greater Manila Mass Transport System (GMMTS).

The traffic congestion project intends to centralize provincial bus stations by having just one northern and one southern point on Edsa. *Tina G. Santos*

Country a model of judicial reform? Ha! Ha!

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE COUNTRY'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS NOW winning recognition as a role model of judicial reform, said Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban.

Justice Panganiban was probably joking when he said that at the sidelines of the International Conference and Showcase on Judicial Reforms at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City.

Or perhaps the jurist and lawyer participants in the conference were just being gracious and diplomatic to their host country. That's why they said they recognized the Philippines as a model of judicial reform.

For a model of judicial reform the country is not. Far from it.

Results of a survey on the country's legal system conducted in August by the Social Weather Stations showed most lawyers badmouthing the judicial system.

Of the 440 lawyers interviewed in Metro Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao cities, 49 percent said they were "aware" of judges in their localities who received bribes from litigants.

If some judges and prosecutors are not corrupt, they are incompetent.

Take the case of Jeff Quesada, a quadriplegic, meaning he can't move his hands and feet without help. In short, a complete paralytic.

Quesada has been languishing at the Bulacan Provincial Jail in Malolos after being charged with rape.

The prosecutor and judge handling the rape case, both female, apparently could not tell a paralytic from a "normal" person. The prosecutor filed the rape case in court without first looking at Quesada's condition.

The judge continues to hear the rape case. She has not granted Jeff's petition for bail because—listen to this—his parents sought the help of my public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo."

I should not be writing about the merits of a case already being heard by the courts. I risk being held in contempt by the court and jailed for it.

But I take exception to Jeff's case.

One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know that in his condition it was impossible for him to have forced himself on a woman.

The woman said that he held a gun on her during her supposed ordeal. But Jeff can't even hold a spoon, much more a gun.

Jeff has to be bodily carried from his wheelchair to the bathroom to answer the call of nature.

I understand the lady judge has inhibited herself from the case. But the judge to whose sala the case had been transferred has picked up where the original judge left off.

The result is that I'm now being blamed by Jeff's parents for their son's continued misery. Why do I keep hitting the judge and jeopardizing their son's acquittal, they asked.

But the problem of whether Jeff should be acquitted or convicted is no longer the issue. The issue is why Jeff, a complete paralytic, has been charged with the impossible crime of rape.

I'm sure the Court Administrator, an office under the Supreme Court that receives complaints against judges, has read about Jeff's plight in this space or probably watched it on my TV show.

Why hasn't the Court Administrator acted *motu propio* (to use the legal language) or acted on its own initiative to inquire from the judge about the absurdity of Jeff's case?

* * *

A former policeman who shot and killed a journalist three years ago has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Judge Ramon Codilla of the Cebu Regional Trial Court found ex-PO1 Guillermo Wapile guilty of the murder of Edgar Damalerio of Pagadian City. You think justice has been served in Damalerio's murder? No, because the mastermind has never been identified.

It's impossible for Wapile to have acted on his own. He didn't have any motive.

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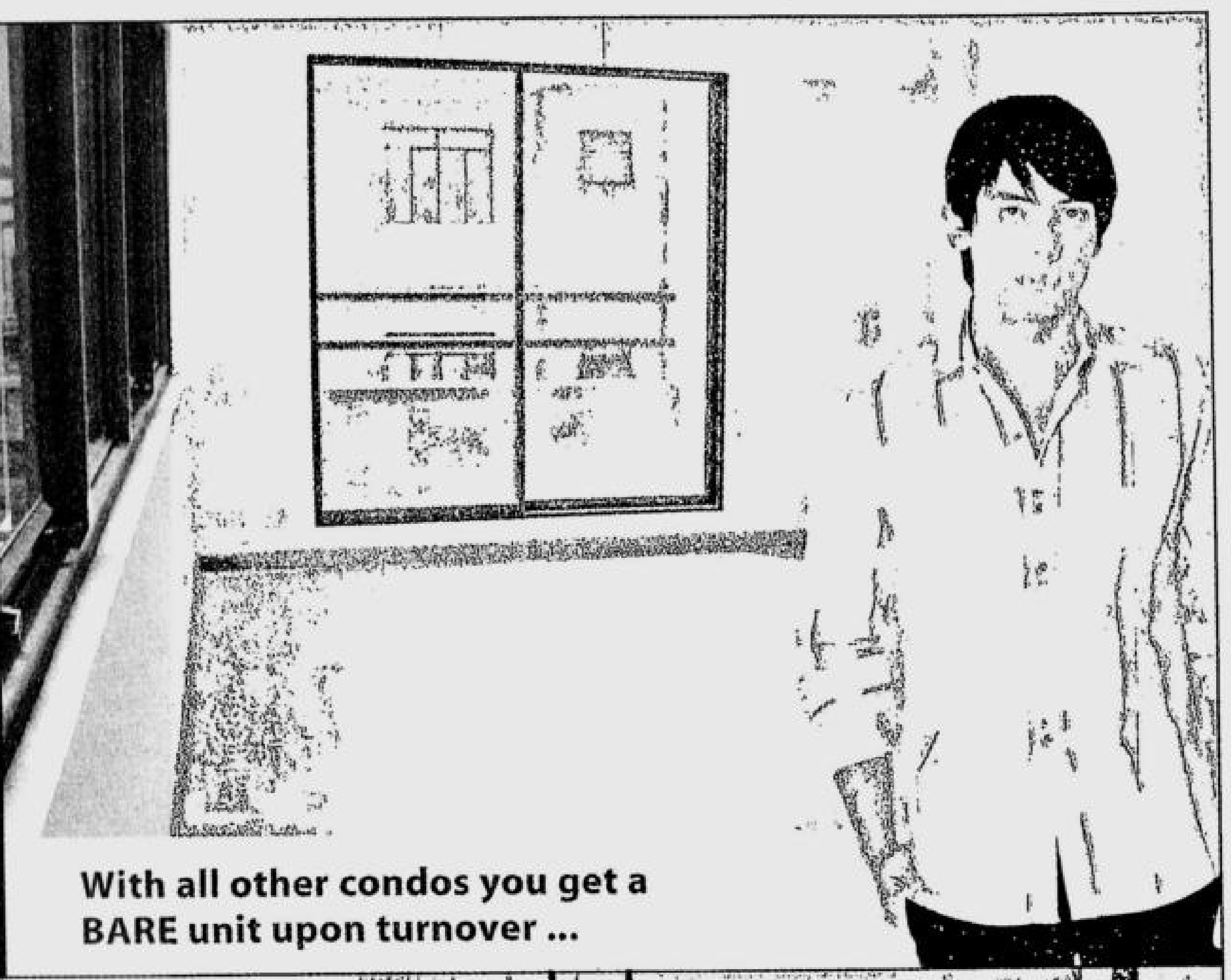

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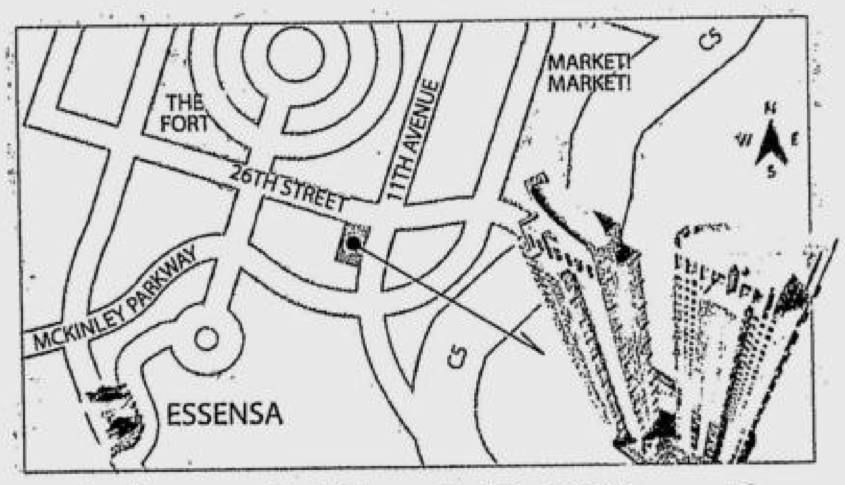
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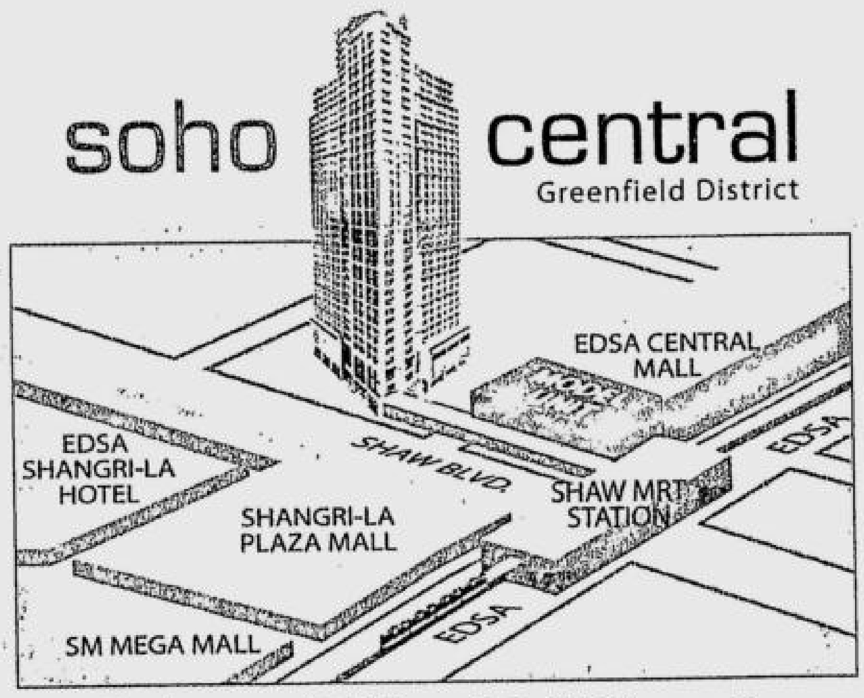
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Buenavista disqualified as Thais rule athletics

GOLD THAT NEVER WAS: Eduardo Buenavista crosses the finish totally fagged out. RYAN LIM

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES BLEW ITS bid for the overall championship in athletics of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games but what hurt most was the disqualification of Eduardo Buenavista after winning the 5,000 meters yesterday.

Cheered by a roaring crowd at the age-old Rizal Memorial Stadium, Buenavista raced wide and into the path of the rallying Thai Boonthung Srisung in a sprinting duel in the last 50 meters to secure the victory.

Thailand immediately put the outcome under protest which officials later upheld.

Buenavista's misadventure, which came after his loss to the same Boonthung in the 10,000 meters Tuesday, overshadowed the country's victory in the 4x400 meter relay courtesy of Julius Nieras, Jimar Aing, Fil-American Kashus Perona and anchor Ernie Candelario.

The RP quartet won in wire-to-wire style with a time of 3:09.15 that boosted the country's total gold output to eight with only the two marathon events left in the schedule.

Even a marathon sweep won't prevent another overall victory for Thailand, which now has 11 golds after winning four times yesterday.

"It's a unanimous decision," said Sri Lanka's Pasqual Handi Dayanada Waidyatilaka, the tournament's technical director, as he finally lowered the boom on Buenavista.

"That act of Buenavista deliberately impeded the (Thai) runner. That's the final decision."

Representatives from Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei comprised the jury and made their decision in the presence of Maurice Nicholas, the long-time IAAF secretary-general.

Buenavista had a slim lead going into the final 150 meters and raced wide as both runners entered the final bend. Buenavista kept on glancing at the Thai and clearly blocked Boonthung when he tried the pass the Filipino.

"I feel sorry, but it's part of the game," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok. "We have to accept the decision of the panel."

Buenavista, who won a long-distance double in Kuala Lumpur in 2001 and the 10,000 in Vietnam two years ago, would have clocked 14 minutes and 14.76 seconds, but his disqualification gave Srisung the official time of 14:15.09.

Filipino Julius Sermona was elevated to second in 14:45.44, with Amnuay Tongmit of Thailand salvaging the bronze.

Aying and Candelarió, who finished 1-2 in the men's 400 meters earlier, were also part of the 4x400 quartet that was upset by the Thais two years ago in Vietnam.

The Thai squad of Banjong Lachua, Jukkatip Pojaroen, Apisit Kuttiyawan and Supachi Phachsay settled for the silver this time with a clocking of 3:10.53 with the Malaysian team of Mohd Zafril Mohd Zuslaini, Jayakumar Dewarajco, Shahadan Jamadulin and Amran Raj Krishnan settling for the bronze.

Thailand racked up victories in the men's triple jump courtesy of Theerayut Philakong at 16.00 meters, where Jobert Delicano won the second of three silver medals for the Philippines for the day with an effort of 15.92, the men's 200 meters and the men's pole vault.

Sittichai Suwonprateep nipped John Herman Murai of Indonesia in the 200 with a time of 20.94, while Amnat Kunpadit cleared 4.90 meters in the pole vault in just one try to nose out countryman Sompong Saombankuay.

Mercedita Manipol, the tiny native of Romblon who posted an upset victory in the women's 10,000 on Monday, won the last RP silver by checking in second in the 5,000 behind Oliva Sadi of Indonesia, who clocked 16:34.94.

Go had predicted at least 10 victories for the Filipinos in the centerpiece event of the SEAG and it's now up for Roy Vence and Allan Ballecer in the men's marathon and Cristabel Martes in the women's side to achieve that. *With a report from Hazel Sanculi*

THE PHILIPPINES'-4x400M relay team bags the gold medal over Thailand, clocking 3.09.15 in the athletics competition of the 23rd SEA Games yesterday. KARL SUMBELING

ATHLETICS MEDAL COUNT
AS OF END OF DAY 4
(Total of 43 events)

Country	G	S	B
Thailand	11	13	19
Philippines	8	10	8
Vietnam	8	8	3
Malaysia	8	3	3
Myanmar	3	3	1
Singapore	3	1	4
Indonesia	1	5	1
T. Leste	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0

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SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
Philippines	54	34	43	131
Vietnam	38	31	34	103
Thailand	28	44	50	122
Malaysia	23	22	21	66
Indonesia	16	24	31	71
Myanmar	8	8	21	37
Singapore	12	12	22	46
Brunei	0	2	2	4
Laos	0	3	5	8
Cambodia	0	0	3	3
Timor Leste	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	179	180	232	591

Medal tally (As of 8:30 p.m. November 30, 2005) — from the Phisoc website

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13	Brunei Darussalam
14	Canada
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16	Chile
17	China
18	Cook Islands
19	Cote D'Ivoire
20	Cyprus
21	Czech Republic
22	Egypt
23	France
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25	Greece
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31	Ireland
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56	Panama
57	Philippines
58	Poland
59	Qatar
60	Russia
61	Saudi Arabia
62	Singapore
63	Slovakia
64	South Africa
65	Spain
66	Sri Lanka
67	Sweden
68	Switzerland
69	Taiwan
70	Thailand
71	Turkey
72	U.A.E.
73	United Kingdom
74	Uruguay
75	USA
76	Venezuela
77	Vietnam

Vietnam becomes new SEAG power

By Roy Luarca

AT HOME TWO YEARS AGO, Vietnam made a giant leap by capturing the overall crown of the Southeast Asian Games.

Now, the Vietnamese are proving they have really become a sports power in the region by engaging the pacesetting Filipinos and the Thais in a battle for overall supremacy.

Striking hardest in combat sports, the Vietnamese have snared 38 golds, 31 silvers and 34 bronzes as of 7 p.m. yesterday, trailing the Filipinos' 49-28-32 tally and towing the Thais' 23-25-42 output.

The Thais, who last ruled the biennial meet in 1999, are proving to be superior in track and field, making a splash in aquatics and are hitting their target in shooting.

Malaysia lies fourth with a 20-18-23 output, while traditional powerhouse Indonesia, despite the presence of its world badminton champions, is languishing in fifth with a 15-21-30 production.

Singapore, powered by swimming sensation Joscelyn Yeo, has also broken the twin digit barrier with a 10-11-10 haul.

Also making its presence felt is Burma (Myanmar) with 8 golds, 9 silvers and 17 bronzes.

The rest of the 11-team field, Laos, Brunei, Cambodia and Timor Leste, have yet to break into the winner's roster.

With still five days of action to go, the Filipinos have matched their output in Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi, and remain on track of meeting their 100-gold target that would give them a shot at their first ever general championship.

Though the Vietnamese are likely to miss their 156-gold haul in 2003, they are sure to finish within the top three, a major accomplishment considering that they landed fourth overall in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur edition and just sixth in the 1999 Brunei SEAG.

It's not all smooth sailing, however.

The Thais are crying foul, alleging biased officiating, while other competitors have been harping on the organizational conduct of the Games.

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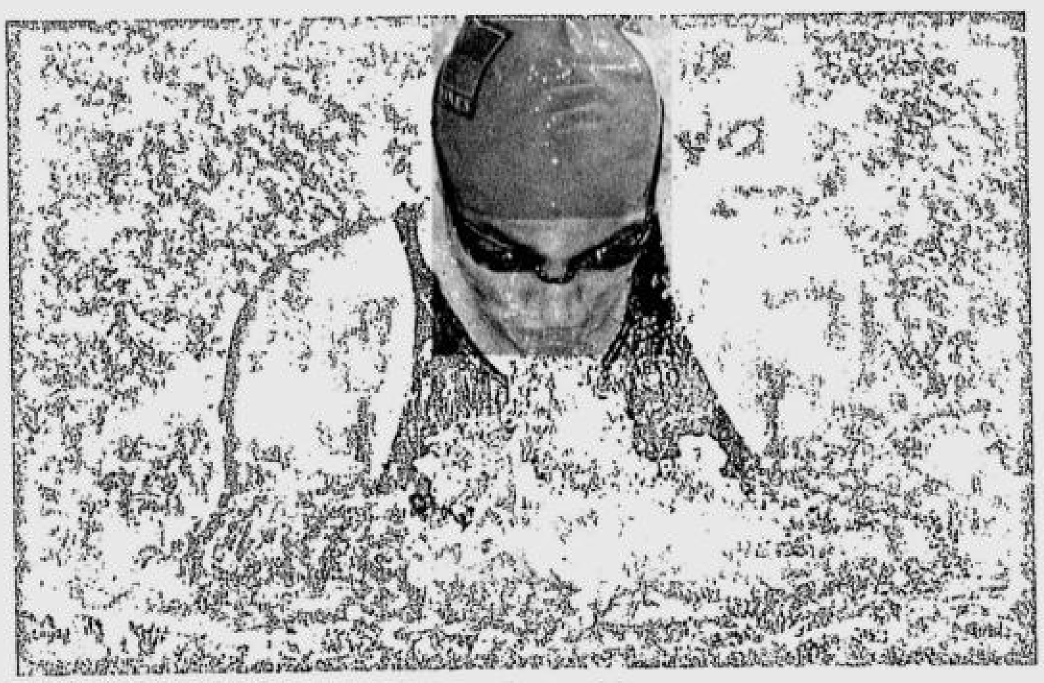

JACKLYN Pangilinan churns her way to the silver medal.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Molina grabs another gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—THE PHILIPPINES' MIGUEL MOLINA once again rescued the country's swimming campaign last night, shattering the national record in the men's 200-meter individual medley for his second gold medal in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Trace Aquatics Center.

Stroking to the beat of the crowd's rhythmic cheers, the 21-year-old Molina dominated the race with a time of two minutes and 3.80 seconds, improving the RP mark of 2:04.64 he himself posted this year during the World Championships in Montreal.

The University of California-Berkeley standout simply overwhelmed the field as early as the first 25 meters in a big followup to his gold in the 400 individual medley Tuesday night.

Thailand's Radomyos Matjur came in with a time of 2:07.12 to take the silver, while Singapore's Gary Tan Lee Yu was third (2:08.01).

His teammates, however, could come up with only three bronze medals through fellow Olympians Jacklyn Pangilinan and Raphael "Timmy" Chua and the women's 4x100 freestyle relay team.

Thailand's relay team set a new SEAG record in ruling the women's 4x100 free relay in 3:52.70, improving the old mark of 3:53.33 their compatriots established in 1999 in Brunei.

Singapore settled for the silver in 3:55.53 while the RP relay team composed of Gandionco, Erica Totten, Heidi Gem Ong and Lizza Danila wound up third in 4:00.22.

Pangilinan was outclassed by the legendary Singaporean Joscelyn Yeo in the women's 100-meter breaststroke.

The 19-year-old Pangilinan, who competes in the United States NCAA for Harvard University, led in the first 50 meters, but Yeo caught up with her after the turn and went on to take gold in one minute 11.74 seconds.

Fellow Singaporean Nicolette Teo Wei Min nosed out Pangilinan for the silver with a time of 1:11.80. The Filipina wound up third in 1:12.74.

Chua also came out strong in the first 50 meters of the men's 100m breast while battling Vietnam SEAG silver winner Vorrawuti Aumpiwan of Thailand. But Vietnam's Huu Viet Nguyen came surging from the eighth lane to take the gold.

Nguyen, bronze winner in 2003, clocked 1:03.80 for the gold, besting Aumpiwan who timed 1:04.01, while Chua came in 1:04.35.

With a report from Don Eric Sta. Rosa

Bowlers bag 2nd gold in doubles

By Jun Engracia

A TEAM-UP OF LEFTIES GAVE THE PHILIPPINES the Philippines its second gold medal in bowling yesterday as former World Cup champion CJ Suarez and Ernesto "Joonee" Gatchalian Jr. nosed out the Malaysian pair in a thrilling down-the-wire duel in the men's doubles of tenpins bowling competitions in the 23rd SEA Games.

Suarez and Gathcalian, buddies since their years in junior competitions, needed the breaks in the final frame of the sixth and final game to turn back Alew Liew and Beng Heng of Malaysia, who came back from 70 pinfalls down and actually led halfway through the final game.

The Filipinos finished with a 2754 total, 11 points clear of the Malaysians, who settled for the silver with a 2743. Another Malaysian pair—Daniel Lim and Aaron Kong, took the bronze.

It was the Philippines' second gold in bowling after Ma. Cecilia Yap win in the women's singles.

Indonesia likewise won its second gold medal as Happy Soediyono and Putty Armein took the women's doubles with the RP tandem of Yap and Liza Clutario dropping to a tie for second with Malaysians Wendy Chai and Zandra Aziela.

Happy shot a final game 267 while Putty put in 214 for a 2753 total. The Filipinos and the Malaysians finished tied with 2654 to share the silver medal. No bronze was awarded.

On Tuesday, Indonesia took the gold in the women's singles with Ryan Lalisan outpacing Filipino Markwin Tee despite the Filipino's 300—the first perfect game recorded in the biennial Games. With a report from Eric Abenoja

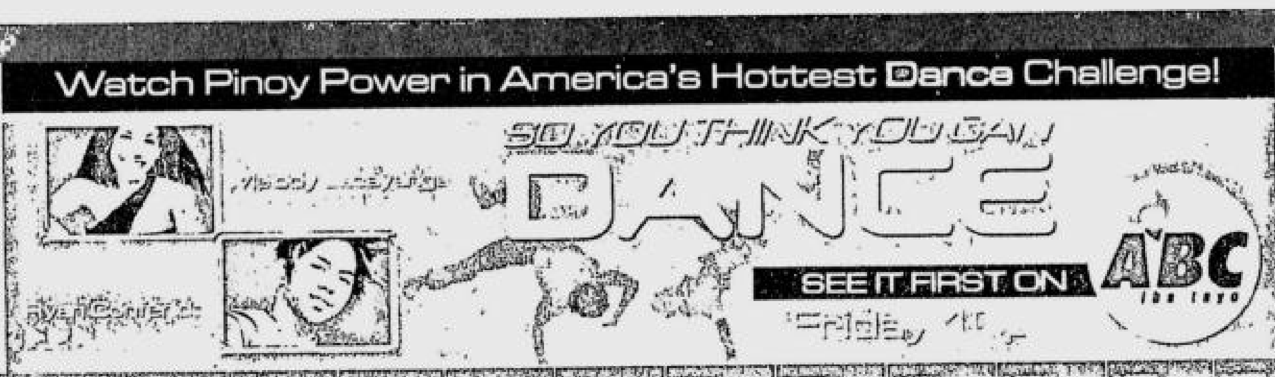
Blu Boys blank Indons; clouters rout Burmese

THE PHILIPPINE BLU BOYS WAITED LONG FOR this moment and they certainly didn't waste it. The Blu Boys blasted Indonesia, 4-0, yesterday in the men's softball opener of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig. It was their first meeting since the Indons upset the Filipinos to capture the gold in the 1997 edition in Jakarta. The sport was not played in the last three SEAG. The women's matches pitting Indonesia against Malaysia and Thailand against the Philippines were postponed due to the inclement weather. In baseball at the Rizal ballpark, the Philippines roared to its third straight win with a five-inning 17-0 rout of Burma (Myanmar). Thailand matched the score in zapping Malaysia in the other game. *Llanesca Panti, Melissa G. Bagamasbad*

INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday, December 1, 2005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ABC 5									Sentro	2005 South East Asian Games					Big News	2005 South East Asian Games			Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			
AXN								Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts					The Shield	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Cinemax			Major Dundee				It Could Happen To You				Caught In The Headlights			Mistral			Hard To Kill (10:35PM)		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery				Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Maguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	X-Games Files '04	Goals!	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's World Summit of Pool		In The Driver's Seat	ESPN Great Outdoor Games				Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Int'l Challenge	Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing: R. Duran v Buchanan		Sportscenter Asia	X-Games Files '04	Pool, Snooker World Pool League '05		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Commited	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Virtue Storybook	Image Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	EWTN Gallery	Where God Weeps	EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Catechisms And Controversies	The Word Was Made Flesh	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romance	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA, The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law II		Strong Medicine		Midsomer Murders, Who Killed Cock Robin			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO			Comfort And Joy			Kart Racer			The Neverending Story II The Next Chapter			Paycheck				Angels In America Chapter 1: Bad News		Angels In America Chapter 2: In Vitro	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
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NBN				New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Sea Games				Teledyaryo				Network Forum		Bantay OCW With Susan K.	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			My Pledge Of Love				Tina My Tina Buksan Mo Ang Kurtina				One Heart				Kalabog En Bosyo				Mumbaki
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Revelations		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepherds Voice	
Solar Sports		2005 IBF Hong-kong Badminton Shots					NBA Game: Mavericks @ Bucks					Sportsdesk		NBA Game: Bobcats @ Sonics					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus	NBA Game Magic @ Bulls					Party Poker Com World Open '05				Slipstream		NFL 2005 Green Bay @ Philadelphia						Celebrity Poker Tournament 2	
Star Movies			Den Of Lions			Alien (5:15 PM)				Grosse Pointe Blank (7:10 PM)				Bicentennial Man				Hidalgo (11:10PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show: Miss World Northern Europe Vote For Me	Less Than Perfect Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster		UAAP				Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Contender		Alias (8:20 PM)	Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Salt

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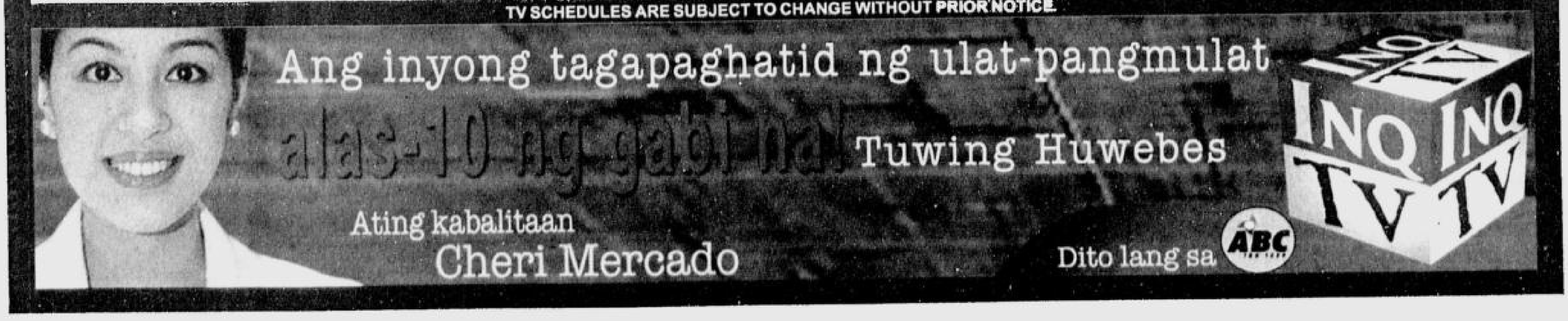
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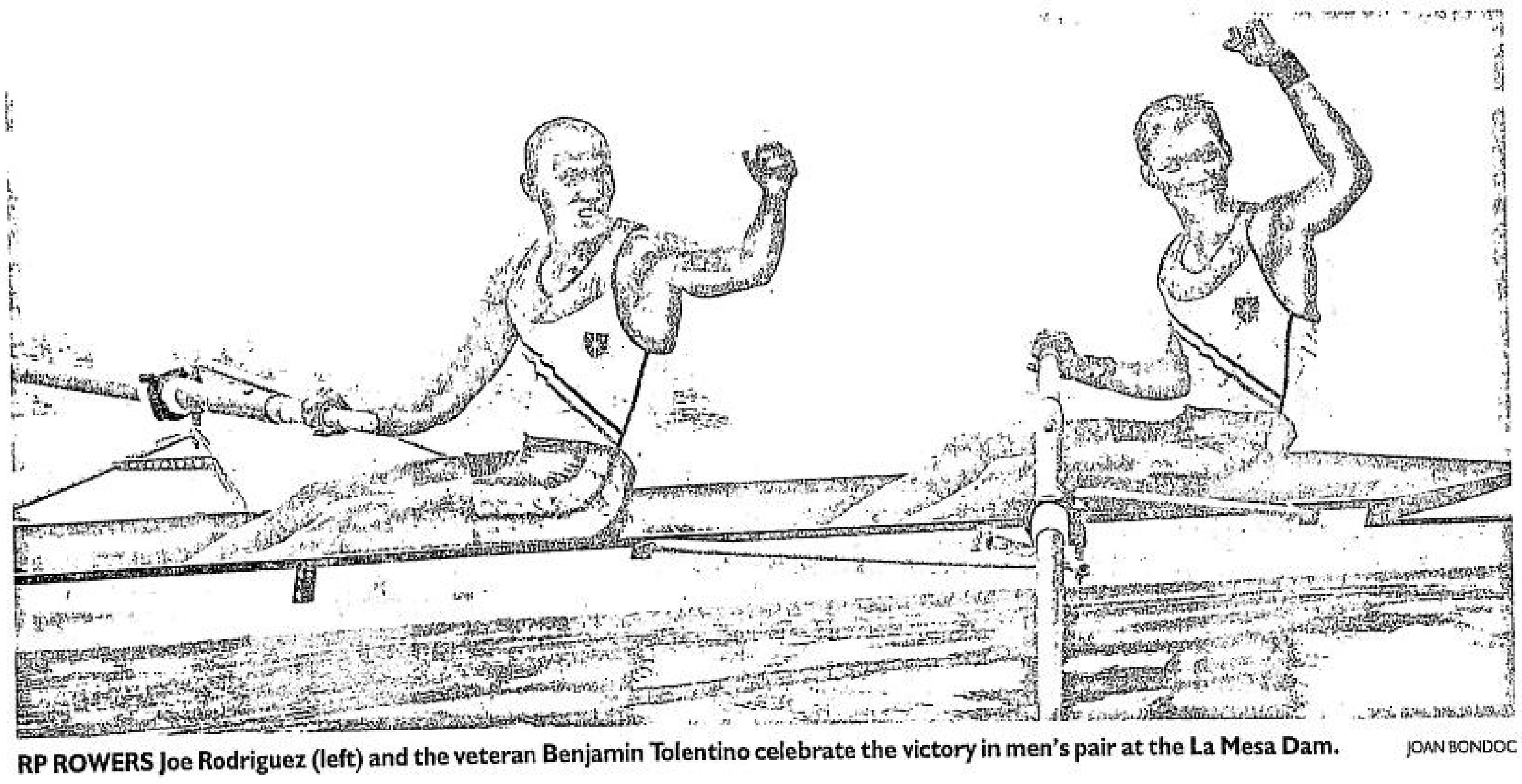

RP ROWERS Joe Rodriguez (left) and the veteran Benjamin Tolentino celebrate the victory in men's pair at the La Mesa Dam. JOAN BONDOC

Tolentino wins twice

By Rufino Lopez III

VETERAN BENJAMIN TOLENTINO JR. CAPtured two gold medals at the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City as rowing boosted the Philippine campaign for overall honors in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday.

The tall, well-built and dusky Tolentino won the lightweight men's single sculls then combined with Jose Rodriguez to rule the men's pair event.

A bronze by Nida Cordova in the women's single sculls completed the strong opening show by the rowers, who finished with only three silvers and two bronzes two years ago in Vietnam.

"We were expecting to get only one gold," said team captain Rodriguez, who was second in the singles sculls in Vietnam. "But we were able to get two more medals so *nasobrahan naman ang expectations namin.*"

The grandson of former national cage team center Mariano Tolentino won the single sculls with a time of 7 minutes 27.92 seconds.

Phan Thanh Hao of Vietnam took the silver and Roozainy Bin Omar of Indonesia the bronze.

Tolentino and Rodriguez clocked 7:08.96 in the men's pair event, finishing almost five seconds ahead of Indonesia's Agus Budi Aji and Iswandi and more than 20 seconds up on third placers Hoang Duc Tan and Nguyen Hoang Anh of Vietnam.

Cordova timed 8:27.31 in the women's single sculls behind the 8:17.26 of Indonesian gold medalist Pepe Karoba and the 8:22.15 of runner-up Elsie Lim Kim Hiok of Singapore.

Competition resumes today in the singles open, men's double scull, women's pair, and the lightweight fours.

Rodriguez said they won't predict anything except that they're going to put up a good stand.

Filipino sailors show way in two events

SUBIC BAY, OLONGAPO CITY—Ridgely Balladares and Rommel Chavez put in quite a show in the men's 470 event even as Singapore continued to lead most of the sailing events of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Subic Bay Yacht Club.

Balladares and Chavez, silver medalists at the Vietnam Games two years ago, finished first in all their races yesterday to take the lead over Myanmar's Maung Aung Myin Thu and Sai Pyae Sone Hein.

The Philippine team also continued its strong performance in the boardsailing events with German Paz showing the way in the RS:X division and Reneric Moreno running second in the Formula category.

Singapore was still unshakeable in its bid for the overall crown by keeping the lead in six of the 12 races. Thailand was ahead in three and Malaysia up in one.

The results were provisional as of press time as complaints were still being received at the boathouse for processing by the international jury.

The six races required for a series have already been completed.

The lowest score of all participants shall be dropped in the event that one to three more races are completed over the remaining days of the competition, while the two lowest scores will be dropped in the event that all 10 scheduled races are completed.

Jose Paolo Lacdao

Ramirez, men's gymnasts pick up two bronzes

By Jasmine W. Payo

ALTHOUGH UNCERTAIN OF HIS chances, Philippine bet Roel Ramirez secured a bronze as Malaysia continued to top the men's Artistic event in gymnastics of the Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

It was the second bronze for the Philippine contingent after sharing third place with Vietnam in the men's team event on Tuesday night.

Ramirez banked on his expertise on the vault for a third-best 50.300 overall points in the individual all-around category.

Malaysia dominated the event with gold-medal winner Shu Wai Ng garnering 53.200 points and silver-medalist Wei Siang Ooi scoring 50.450 points.

"I know that my advantage was in the vault," said Ramirez, who bagged a gold on the apparatus in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG. "But we still have the same strong competition—Malaysia and Thailand—so I wasn't too sure."

Ramirez earned 9.450 points on the vault, the highest among six finalists. The Malaysian duo dominated the parallel bars, rings and the pommel horse.

The other Filipino finalist, Neil Faustino, finished last with 48.900 points.

The RP women's team, though, failed to crash the winner's circle of the individual all-around category.

Danielle Phoebe Espiritu landed ninth out of 12 finalists. Emille Crista Santos bowed out of the medal round after spraining her left foot on the vault.

Vietnam scored a 1-2 finish, while Indonesia took the bronze.

The Philippines and Vietnam scored 191.625 points in the men's team finals, behind champion Malaysia (206.700 points) and second placer Thailand (197.125) on Tuesday night.

The Philippine campaign, though, opened with a heartbreak as the women's team narrowly missed the bronze by less than a point on Tuesday.

Espiritu, Santos, Cintamoni de Guzman, Kristine Raissa Saguisag and Patricia Paraso garnered 123.096 points, just 0.866 point shy of the 123.962 points scored by third-placer Malaysia.

Gold medalist Singapore scored 128.195 points, Vietnam took the silver with 126.649 points.

"We were very close," said Romanian Petre Neda, the RP women's coach. "We didn't expect so many falls especially in the floor (exercises).

With a report from Meysil Yamat

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3 lifters get going in Bacolod

BACOLOD CITY—TEENAGER JOMAR Napoloreyes, Emily Rosas and Hidilyn Diaz banner the Philippines' campaign today when the Southeast Asian Games weightlifting competition gets going with three golds at stake at the Convention Plaza Hotel here.

The women's 48-kg event, where the 25-year-old Rosas and Thailand's Bunphithak Thongyin are seeing action, is the first gold medal to be disputed.

The Philippines is hoping to merely end a 10-year-gold medal drought in the sport while Thailand manager Chirat Udomkitpanya expects at least five of the 10 golds up for grabs.

Thailand's powerhouse cast is led by 2004 Athens Olympic gold medalist and reigning world champion Pawina Thongsuk, who will be competing in the 69-kg category, and bronze winner Wandee Kameaim (63-kg.).

Diaz is entered in the women's 58-kg. event, where she will meet stiff competition from Thailand entry Kuntatean Junpin today, while 19-year-old Napoloreyes will vie for the men's 69-kg. gold.

Despite the arrival of Thailand's top bets, RP coach Ramon Solis expressed confidence that his wards will be able to come up with a strong performance.

"The morale of our athletes is very high," said Solis, who delivered the lone gold medal for the country in the 1991 SEAG in the 90 kg. category. *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Filipino shooters struggle

VIETNAM AND INDONESIA SPLIT THE TWO gold medals staked in shooting yesterday as the Filipinos performed poorly at the PSC-PNSA shooting range in Taguig City.

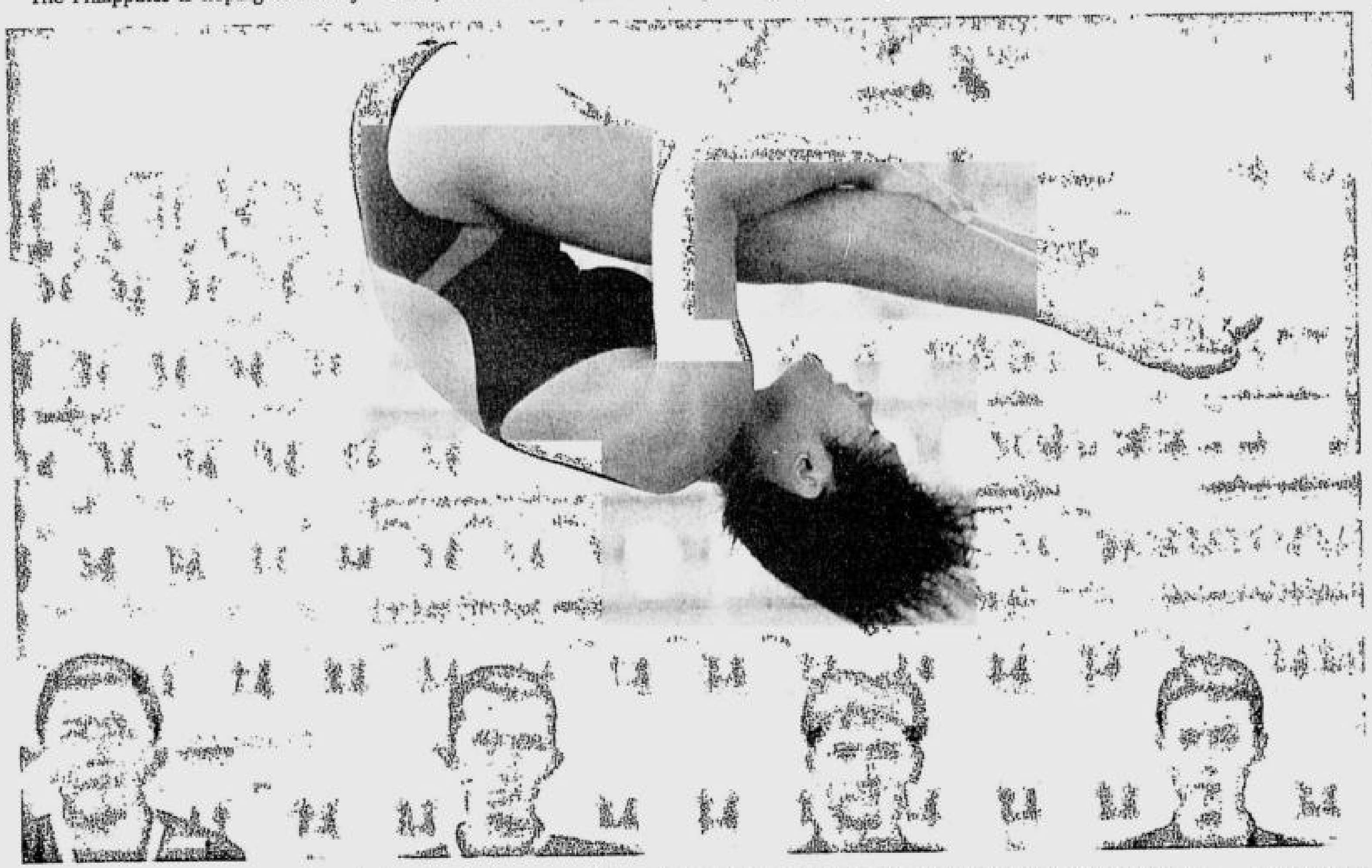
Vietnam's Nguyan Tan Nam won the gold medal with 699.4 points in the men's 50-meter rifle prone 60 shots while Bary Agustin Said of Indonesia captured the women's 10-meter pistol event with 480 points.

The RP entries didn't even come close to winning a medal with Edwin Fernandez finishing seventh in the 50-meter rifle prone 60 shots with an aggregate of 688.4 points.

Eddie Tomas did not make it to the last eight by amassing 581 points, four short of Fernandez, in the qualifying.

Veteran Susan Aguado landed 10th in the women's 10-meter pistol event where Panchang Chisa-Ard of Thailand took the silver with 472.9 points and Khin Soe Thaike of Burma (Myanmar) third with a 471.5 output.

Meanwhile, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla takes time out from his duties as a SEAG ambassador to vie in the 25-m standard pistol today. *Reuben Terrado*



SHIELA Mae Perez executes her winning dive in the women's 1-meter springboard at the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños. EDWIN BACASMAS

And Perez makes it 3

Diving sensation RP's first triple gold medalist

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—SHIELA MAE PEREZ BECAME the most successful Filipino athlete by grabbing a third gold medal yesterday, but powerhouse Malaysia escaped with the overall title in diving by finishing with more silvers in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Trace Aquatics Center.

Perez took the 1-meter springboard gold, winning it on her fifth and final dive to actually become the Games' most bemedalled athlete so far.

She had also won the women's 3-meter springboard individual and the 3-meter springboard synchronized with Ceseil Domenios.

After clinching the first of two gold medals at stake on the final day of diving, Ryan Rexel Fabriga had a chance to give the country the overall crown, but the defending men's 10-meter platform champion lost the gold after a failed dive in the fifth round.

The gold went to Bryan Nickson of Malaysia, which matched RP's five victories and emerged overall winner in the sport with three silvers and three bronzes.

DIVING MEDAL TALLY
(Final)

Country	G	S	B
Malaysia	5	3	3
Philippines	5	1	2
Thailand	0	3	4
Vietnam	0	2	0
Indonesia	0	1	1
Myanmar	0	0	0

The country wound up with a 5-2-2 gold-silver-bronze count after topping the sport in Vietnam two years ago with a 2-2-2 performance.

The 19-year-old Perez, who learned to dive as a youngster playing at the Davao pier where her father was a porter, trailed Malaysia's Leong Mun Yee after four rounds then pulled it off with a decisive dive that gave her 59.28 points and a winning total of 267.66.

Leong Mun Yee performed the same routine Perez did—a reverse 1 ½ somersault with 1 ½ twist in free position—on her last dive but only got 56.34 points for a 266.34 total that left her with the silver.

"I left everything to God on my final dive," said Perez in Filipino. "I said I'd settle for whatever is due me."

Nickson, the world junior champion, bucked a faulty dive in the first round by coming up with superb routines in the third and fourth to gain 75.84 and 81.61 points respectively en route to a 580.20 total.

Fabriga scored a total of 566.61 to settle for the silver, while Thai Sareerapat Pisamsee totalled 525.87 points for bronze.

A gold winner in the 10-meter platform synchronized, Fabriga committed an error that cost him 14 points from his total by failing to start in a dive that involved a handstand.

The 20-year-old was nursing a swollen right hand and just recovered from a shoulder injury, leading the crowd to wonder why the coaching staff called for such a dive.

RP coach Rommel Kong appealed for a re-dive on account of strong winds but it was turned down. *With reports from Don Eric Sta. Rosa*

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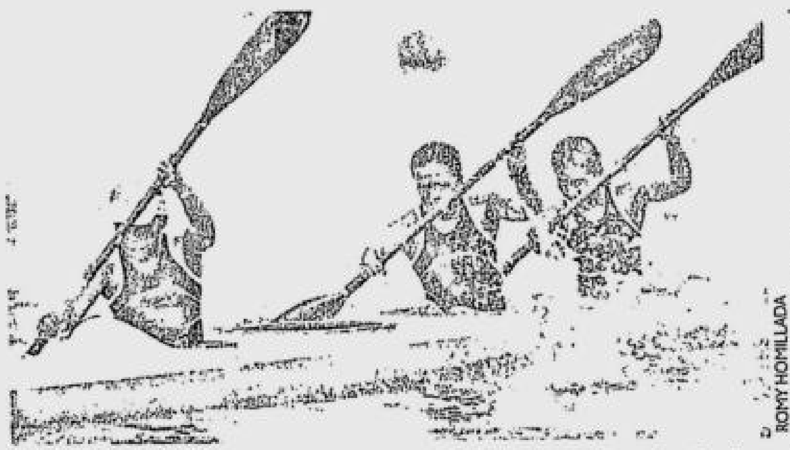
SEA GAMES SCHEDULES

TODAY'S RP SCHEDULE

AQUATICS-SWIMMING
(*Trace College, Laguna*)
8 a.m.—400M Freestyle (men's heats); 100M Freestyle (men's heats); 100M Backstroke (women's heats); 100M Butterfly (men's and women's heats); 800M Freestyle (women's finals); 4x100M Freestyle Relay (men's heats); 100M Backstroke (men's finals)
6 p.m.—100M Butterfly (men's and women's finals); 800M Freestyle (women's finals); 100M Backstroke (women's finals and men's heats); 4x100M Freestyle Relay (men's finals), 400M Freestyle (men's finals)
ARCHERY (*Subic Bay Freeport Football Field*)
9 a.m.—Recurve (women's 1/16)
9:30 a.m.—Compound (men's 1/16)
10 a.m.—Recurve (women's 1/8)
10:30 a.m.—Compound (men's 1/8)
2 p.m.—Compound (women's 1/16)
2:30 p.m.—Recurve (men's 1/16)
3 p.m.—Compound (women's 1/16)
3:30 p.m.—Recurve (men's 1/8)
BADMINTON (*Philsports Multi Sports Complex*)
9 a.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (mixed doubles); Philippines vs Indonesia (mixed doubles)
9:45 a.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia (women's elims); Philippines vs Vietnam (women's elims)
10:30 a.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (men's elims); Philippines vs Indonesia (men's elims)
11:15 a.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (women's); Philippines vs Indonesia (women's)
12 p.m.—Philippines vs Singapore (men's elimins); Philippines vs Malaysia (men's elimins)
BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER
(*Makati Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—Snooker Double (men's prelims); One Cushion Carom Single (men's q'finals); 15-Ball Pool Single (men's pre-q'finals)
1 p.m.—15-Ball Pool Single (men's q'finals); One Cushion Carom (men's semis)
4 p.m.—15-Ball Pool Single (men's semis); Snooker Double (men's q'finals); One Cushion Carom (men's bronze-medal match)
7 p.m.—Snooker Double (men's semis); One Cushion Carom (finals); 15-Ball Pool Single (finals and bronze match)
BOWLING-TENPIN
(*Pearl Bowling Center, Parañaque*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's trios (3 games)
1:10 p.m.—Men's and women's trios (3 games/finals)
CHESS (*Tagaytay Int'l Convention Center*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's blitz-individual (qualifier)
4:30 p.m.—Men's and women's standard (round 3)
CYCLING (*Tagaytay City*)
9 a.m.—Women's 27km ITT
10:30 a.m.—Men's 40km ITT
EQUESTRIAN
(*Alabang Country Club Polo Field*)
TBA—1st individual qualifier
FENCING (*San Juan Gymnasium*)
10 a.m.—Team Sabre (men's direct elims); Team Foil (women's direct elims)
1:15 p.m.—Team Foil (women's finals)
2:15 p.m.—Team Sabre (men's finals)
3:45 p.m.—Team Foil (men's direct elims)
5:45 p.m.—Team Foil (men's finals)
GOLF (*The Country Club*)
7:30 a.m.—Men's individual (3rd round)

GYMNASTICS
(*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex*)
9 a.m.—Artistic Gymnastics (women's individual finals)
11 a.m.—Artistic Gymnastics (men's individual finals)
JUDO (*Mandaue Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—Under-48kg, +100 kg, -45 kg, -100kg (elims)
5 p.m.—+100kg, -100kg, -45kg, -48kg (bronze-medal matches)
6 p.m.—+100kg, -100kg, -45kg, -48kg (finals)
LAWN BOWLS (*Hidden Vale Sports Club*)
8:30 a.m.—Singles, Pairs, Triples (men's and women's round 1)
1 p.m.—Singles (men's and women's round 2); Pairs (men's and women's rounds 2 and 3)
MUAY (*GSIS Basketball Gym*)
3 p.m.—45-48 kg (men's prelims)
3 p.m.—54-57kg (men's prelims)
3 p.m.—51-54kg (men's prelims)
3 p.m.—48-51kg (men's prelims)
PENCAK SILAT (*Cebu Coliseum*)
9 a.m.—Tanding (men's classes A-I elims)
2 p.m.—Tanding (women's classes A-D elims)
7:30 p.m.—Tunggal (men's singles elims), Regu (women's elims)
ROWING (*La Mesa Dam*)
TBA—Men's and women's group B finals
SEPAK TAKRAW
(*University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu*)
11 a.m.—Philippines vs Singapore (men's regu elims)
SHOOTING
(*PSC-PNSA Shooting Range, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig*)
9 a.m.—Skeet 75 Targets (women's finals)
9 a.m.—Skeet 75 Targets (men's finals)
9 a.m.—25 m Standard Pistol (men's finals)
9 a.m.—10m Air Rifle 60 shots (men's finals)
SOFTBALL
(*Rosario Sports Arena, Pasig City*)
9:30 a.m.—Philippines vs. Malaysia (men's elims)
3:30 p.m.—Indonesia vs Philippines (women's elims)
SQUASH (*Makati Sports Club*)
6 p.m.—women's singles finals
7 p.m.—men's singles finals
TENNIS (*Rizal Memorial Tennis Center*)
TBA—Single (women's semis)
TBA—Single (men's semis)
TBA—Mixed Doubles (semis)
TRIATHLON (*Boardwalk*)
6:30 a.m.—individual (women's finals)
BEACH VOLLEYBALL
(*University of St. La Salle Grounds*)
8 a.m.—Philippines 2 vs Indonesia 2 (women's)
8:45 a.m.—Philippines 2 vs Thailand 2 (men's)
9:30 a.m.—Philippines 1 vs Indonesia 1 (men's)
11:45 a.m.—Philippines 2 vs Cambodia (men's)
12:30 p.m.—Philippines 2 vs Malaysia 1 (women's)
INDOOR VOLLEYBALL
(*West Negros College*)
3:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Thailand (men's)
WEIGHTLIFTING (*Bacolod Convention*)
9 a.m.—48kg (women's finals)
1 p.m.—69kg (men's finals)
4 p.m.—58kg (women's finals)

Basta Pinoy, Posible!



TRIPLE THREAT: Jeanilyn Betacura, Leslie Herrera and Jeanifer Catilo ROMY HOMILLADA

Young team of paddlers hoping for best

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—FOR A young squad, nothing much is expected from the Philippine canoe-kayak team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Malawaan Fishing area here.

Head coach Len Escalante said the team is just aiming to contribute two to three medals for the country's fight for overall supremacy in the Games when the RP paddlers begin their medal quest tomorrow.

"Of course, everybody wants to win a gold," said Escalante. "But even silver or bronze medals will do. Anyway, we're still a young team trying to compete with the best in Southeast Asia.'"

With an average age of 18, the Filipinos will be pitted against the seasoned paddlers of Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand trained by European coaches.

Escalante said a Russian coach trained the Vietnamese, the Singaporeans. Myanmar hired a Hungarian mentor and Thailand's coach is from the Czech Republic.

"We're the only country who doesn't have a foreign coach," said Escalante.

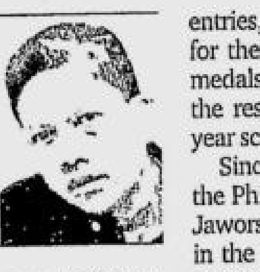
"They get coaches from Europe because Europeans are the best competitors in the event," added Escalante, member of the canoeing team which won the bronze in the 2003 Vietnam Games.

April Mae Peñalosa, Jeanilyn Betacura, Leslie Herrera and Jeanifer Catilo will try to match or even surpass that finish in the event which stakes seven gold medals.

Men's bets Marvin Amposta, Jonard Saren, Jonathan Villarino, Jeremiah Tambor, Norwell Cajes, Danny Funelas, John Oliver Victorio, Robert Sulit and Aljay Mascarena are also upbeat. *J. Navarro*

Games stress and how to deal with it

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

GO TENG KOK COLLAPSED LAST SUNday, frightening foes and friends alike gathered at the Rizal Memorial Stadium for the 23rd SEA Games. You see, GTK is not a stranger to tragedies, having survived bullets pumped into him a couple of years ago that deformed his face but not his conviction to continue giving sporting honors to the country.

If there's one official you will either love or hate in Philippine sports, it is him.

Controversial to the bone, GTK does things his way no matter who gets hurt, no matter what others will say. He is like golf's Benny Gopez: tough as nail.

GTK's friends adore his style, GTK's foes curse him to hell.

But one thing stands out in him: His work ethics.

So consumed is he in his devotion to duty that GTK has always been known as a work-work-work guy. Workaholic. Even when he wasn't fully recovered yet from his bullet wounds inflicted by a would-be assassin in 2003, GTK immediately went to his Patafa offices, literally jumping out of his hospital bed to cram up on paperwork he had unwillingly left behind. No matter that he couldn't speak yet as his tongue had been pierced by one gunshot.

If you ask him what day it is these days of SEA Games fever, he'll probably say, "It's Christmas Day today." He is that soaked up in the Games he might have also already forgotten the street where he lives.

Gosh, weeks before the start of the Games, he even held a key job in fixing the unfixable basketball mess despite the fact that he already holds a gargantuan post as president of the Philippine Track and Field Association, which is much-ballyhooed to haul the bulk of SEA Games gold medals for the country.

Thus, when I heard that he had collapsed, I wasn't surprised one bit. I just prayed nothing serious had happened.

As allies tried to bodily carry him to a van on the way to the hospital, GTK regained consciousness. Thank God, he was all right—for now, at least.

Fatigue. Mental stress. Lack of sleep. Those were the culprits that tried to bring him down—thank God, to no avail.

"I don't know what's happening anymore," GTK said when he came to. "There are so many things that need to be done, many people that I need to take care of, many pep talks and caring for my athletes to make them winners in the SEA Games."

When told that Marestella Torres' long jump victory proved to be the country's first gold medal in the SEA Games, GTK's twisted face struggled with a smile. And then he said, "Lily?" Meaning, "Really?"

The pressure of delivering what he had promised to himself and to the public could be starting to weigh down on him.

As you and I pretty well know, GTK has this habit—a bad one, I must say—of promising to deliver gold medals this many in any event that Patafa bets are entered in.

In the 2001 SEA Games alone, Patafa's entries, known as The GTK Army, scooped for the country the most number of gold medals in Kuala Lumpur when virtually all the rest of the Philippine delegation that year scavenged for precious gold.

Since that time on, GTK, the manager of the Philippine basketball team that Robert Jaworski had coached to a runner-up finish in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games, has cemented his niche in Philippine sports.

That's what GTK is trying to protect—if not augment—in the ongoing Games.

He could now be so pressured in maintaining his turf's scintillating SEA Games record that he might even be skipping meals now.

Missing precious sleep is bad enough. What more with not having enough nutrients to keep the body in shape in times of stress and pressure?

I believe it is not only GTK who's suffering from this generic disease called SEA Games stress. Many more out there are in a similar situation. It is no joke being thrust into a spot where failure is never an option.

So c'mon, GTK, loosen up a bit?

Like practically all your fellow officials in the Philippine contingent, you've done more than enough already to prepare us for battle.

You have unleashed your soldiers in the battlefield. Leave the fighting to them. They are doing all right—thus far.

So sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

It's not every day that we can have this spectacle right before our own eyes.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Peter & Gordon, one of the world's top singing duos in the Sixties, will perform tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. I'm sure Ed and Minyang Pamintuan, Dennis Uy, Chito Salud, Hermie Aquino, Ramon & May Uy, Joe Cajili, Danny & Joy Isla, Secretary Mike Defensor and his wife will be there again to "let their hair down" the way they did when Solar Entertainment/Sports and Steve O'Neal presented a while back such great Sixties bands like The Searchers, Chad & Jeremy, The Beach Boys and Gary Lewis and The Playboys. Cheers!

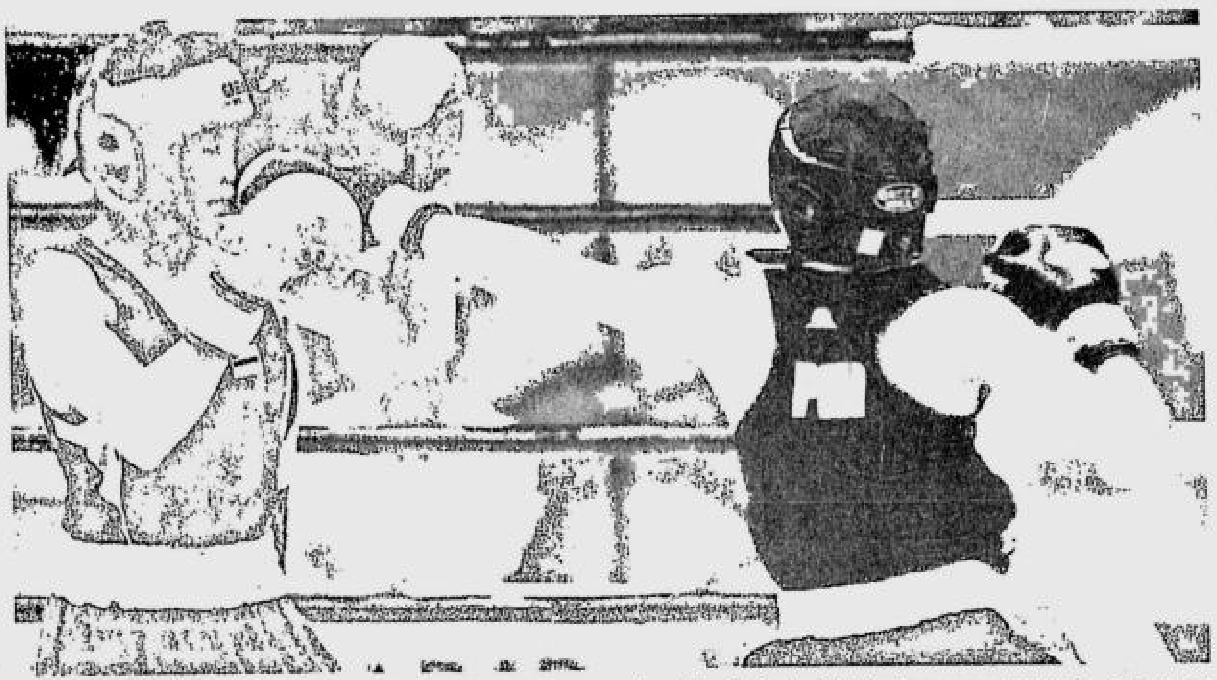
* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Boxing: RP 2, Thailand 0

Basadre routs Thai as Pinoys forge ahead in title matchup

By Recah Trinidad



GENEBERT Basadre (right) tags Thailand's Tun Dansamak with a left straight in the second round. REM ZAMORA

BACOLOD CITY—RIGHT-HANDER GENEBERT BASADRE manhandled Tun Dansamak with a baffling left hand, 28-19, to push the Philippines ahead, 2-0, over Thailand in their grim race for the men's boxing championship of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

In a clash of Games' first-timers, the 21-year-old Basadre, a native of Cagayan de Oro, sprang from a tentative start and dominated Dansamak with a left straight disguised as a jab in the second round.

With a display of splendid footwork and overall ringmanship, Basadre rained crackling left-right combinations on the hapless Thai before he coasted in the final round en route to a second straight win by the Filipino fighter over a Thai rival.

And just like Olympian Harry Tañamor, who tamed and shamed a wild Suban Pannon of Thailand to virtually clinch the light flyweight gold Tuesday, Basadre is expected to march unmolested to the lightweight championship.

While Thailand has lost two gold-medal hopes, the Philippines has kept an unbeaten slate, a development that led Amateur Boxing Association president Manny Lopez to declare they're well on target to clinching the men's boxing overall championship.

"It's too early to celebrate, but we see today that the job can be done," Lopez told the INQUIRER after congratulating Basadre for a sensational stand.

Local boy Joegen Ladon toyed with Indonesia's Arenaldo Moniaga, 26-12, to arrange a semifinal clash today with Nguyen Trung Kien of Vietnam in the featherweight division where Athens Olympic silver medalist Worapoj Pethkum of Thailand is touted to clinch the title.

Basadre will have a relatively easier semifinal foe in Paunandes Bin Paulus of Malaysia.

In female competition, Annie Albania overwhelmed Nilar of Myanmar, 15-0, to resume her march towards the flyweight gold.

Action picks up today when five Filipinos see action in the semifinals of boxing competitions.

Flyweight Warlito Parenas will be the underdog when he meets Athens Olympic bronze medalist Somjit Jonjohor in a bout that will virtually decide the fly championship.

Opening-day winner Juanito Magliquian fights pinweight Keanuv Pangpayun in another RP-Thai clash.

Middleweight Romeo Brin seeks his second win when he boxes Aung Thura of Myanmar, before comebacking Reynaldo Galido debuts against Ath Samreth of Cambodia in the middleweight class.

Meanwhile, boxing competition here suffered its first casualty when Vietnamese bantamweight fighter Nguyen Kien Chong was sent back home yesterday after suffering a cracked jaw when he was knocked out in the first round by Thailand's Tangtong Klongjan in the first round on Tuesday.

The Viet, who was taken out of the ring on a stretcher, was rushed to the nearby Riverside hospital where he was declared out of danger.

Paragua draws Dreev with black

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA drew his first match against No. 12 Super GM Alexey Dreev of Russia in the second round of the 2005 World Chess Cup late Wednesday at the Khanty-Mansyik, West Siberia, Russia.

The 21-year-old Paragua and the long-time Russian Olympic team mainstay Dreev agreed to a draw after 68 moves of a Queen's Gambit Accepted. Mark, playing with black, had a pawn and a rook against Dreed's rook when the truce was called.

If Paragua upsets Dreev in their second round match tonight, he would face the winner of the match pitting Super GM Giovanni Vescovi of Brazil against former world junior champion GM Pentala Hariskrishna of India.

Vescovi beat Harikrishna in their first game after 44 moves of a Ruy Lopez Opening using the white pieces.

Meanwhile,top seed Super GM Vassily Ivanchuk (ELO 2748) of Ukraine was upset by Ivan Cheparinov of Bulgaria after 44 moves of a Benko Gambit duel.

Ivanchuk, the team skipper of the reigning Ukraine Olympic champion, needs to win his Game 2 match tonight to force a playoff with the Bulgarian tomorrow.

Other notable winners in the second round were Etienn Bacrot of Ukraine, Levon Aronian of Armenia and Alexander Grischuk of Russia. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Mamiit, Taino through; Zalameda, Dy out

By Musong R. Castillo

CECIL MAMIIT GAVE ANOTHER WONderful display of high-class tennis, routing Burma's Zaw Zaw Latt, 6-2, 6-1, before putting on another dancing clinic on center court to lead a raucous celebration.

"I'm glad that everybody's having fun," Mamiit said, moments after joining fellow Fil-Am Eric Taino in the men's singles quarterfinals of the Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The No. 3 Taino also pulled off an easy 6-1, 6-0 win over Vientay Thepsouvanh of Thailand.

"I'm having fun and showing my personality. It's for tennis, it's for the people," Mamiit added. "I'm just giving back what the Filipino people are giving me—the love they are showering me."

The second-seeded Mamiit and Taino, who combined to secure the first team title for the country in the SEAG last Monday, have a chance to duplicate Felix Barrientos' smashing success in 1991.

Barrientos not only won the singles then but also the doubles with Roland So and the mixed doubles with Jennifer Saberon.

Mamiit and Taino are playing doubles.

Johnny Arcilla and Patrick John Tierro, the second RP entry in the men's doubles, posted a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Laos' Ekalath Phonepraseuth and Daliya Saidara to advance to a meeting with No. 3 Indons Suwandi Suwandi and Bonit Wiryawan.

Meanwhile, Riza Angela Zalameda didn't have much luck in her return confrontation with No. 2 Wynne Prakusya of Indonesia, bombing out of the ladies' singles after a 1-6, 2-6 loss.

And Thailand's Suchanan Viratprasert, the tournament top seed, made sure that no Filipino was left in the women's draw after a 6-4, 7-5 victory over a hard-fighting Denise Dy.

Matches yesterday were moved back for three hours because of heavy rains. *With a report from Apolinario Mapacpac*

PAGUNSAN practices at the TCC. JUN RAPANAN

Pagunsan and Co. swing into action

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—THE PHILIPPINE men's golf squad, prepared as best as it could be, plunges into action today with Juvic Pagunsan seeking a second straight individual gold and the team eyeing no less than the championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Jay Bayron, Michael Bibat and Marvin Dumandan join Pagunsan in the lineup for the Philippine team, which went through an intense six-month training to prepare for the best in the region.

"This is different because we will play in front of our countrymen," Pagunsan told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "Winning here would be great, though we know that we will have to play hard for it."

A perfectly manicured The Country Club layout here poses as the real threat to Pagunsan and the class field, as it has been stretched to its full length of 7,135 yards while playing only to a par of 70.

"The team's spirit is high," retired vice-admiral Luisito Fernandez, also the National Golf Association of the Philippines sec-gen, said. "The boys are ready for the challenge."

Women's action will start tomorrow with the heavily-favored tandem of Frances Bondad and Jayvie Marie Agojo joined by Anya Tanpinco.

Malaysia looms as the biggest threat to the team title for the Filipinos and Ben Leong the greatest challenge to Pagunsan in individual play.

Leong is a David Leadbetter protege, spending the last three years enrolled at the Leadbetter Academy in Florida to the tune of no less than $60,000 a year paid for by the Malaysian Golf association.

The men's format is four-to-play, three-to-count for 72 holes and the women's three-to-play, two-to-count for 54 holes.

Lizardo secures sixth gold for t'wondo jins

PASAY CITY—MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

John Paul "Japoy" Lizardo captured the men's finweight title and the Philippines ran away with the overall taekwondo title with six gold medals yesterday in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Lizardo outlasted Thailand's Chutchawal Khawlaor, 3-2, to prevent an RP victory shutout in the final day after defending champions Dax Alberto Morfe and Veronica Domingo surrendered their respective middleweight titles.

Morfe bowed to Vietnam's Nguyen Trong Cuong, 2-5, and Domingo lost to Malaysia's Che Chew Chan, 6-1.

Filipino heavyweight Michael Alejandrino also wound up with a silver and Sally Solis earned her second SEAG bronze medal in the women's heavyweight class.

"We expected more, but six titlists in one team is not bad at all," coach Jobet Morales said. "We really prepared for this."

The highly touted RP jins also picked up three silvers and a bronze medal as they improved on their 5-3-6 gold-silver-bronze finish two years ago in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese hacked out three victories yesterday to finish second overall with four golds, one silver, and eight bronze medals.

Thailand was third with three golds, four silvers, and two bronze medals.

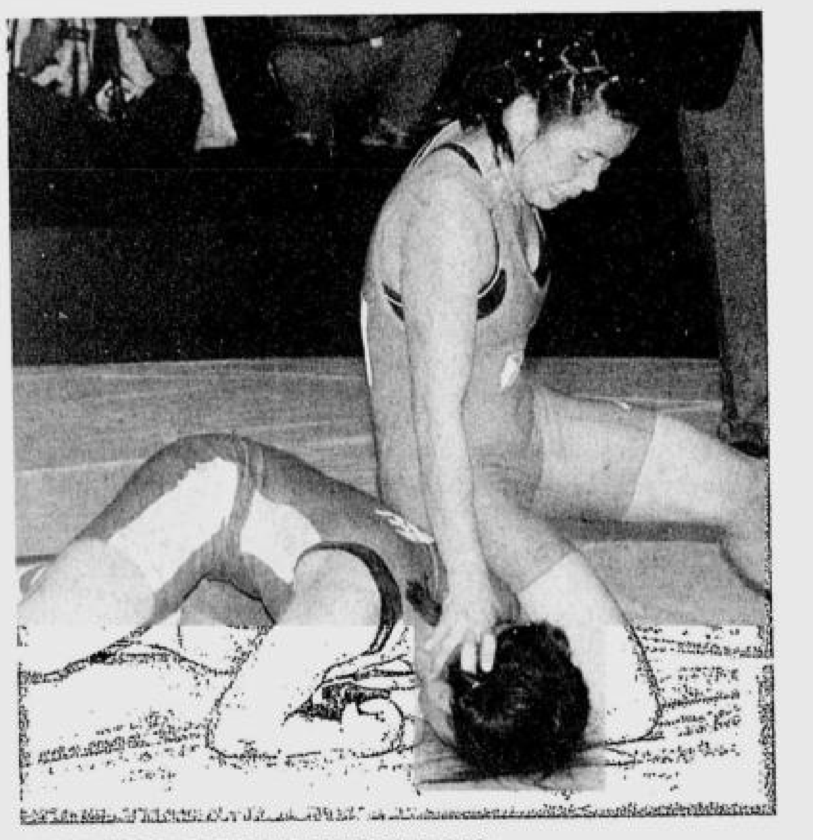
On the way to the gold, Lizardo, the famous Milo endorser, crushed Kyaw Kyaw Htoo of Myanmar, 7-1, and Le Huynh Chau of Vietnam, 2-1.

Viet Nguyen Thi Huyen Dieu captured her third SEAG gold against Sadavanh Khounviseth of Laos, 9-3, in the women's finweight finals.

Alejandrino lost to Nguyen Van Hung of Vietnam in the finals, 3-0, while Solis bowed to Rapatkorn Prasopsuk of Thailand, 8-2, in the semifinals.

Eunice Alora, older sister of women's featherweight titlist Elaine, bowed out early in the finweight competition after taking a 4-3 decision to Indonesia's Francisca Valentina in the eliminations.

Despite their strong showing, the Filipinos failed to surpass their record harvest of eight golds in the 1991 Manila SEA Games . *Karla Tricia V. Magno*



GOLDEN DOUBLE IN WRESTLING

THE PHILIPPINES' Christina Villanueva (red) pins Vietnam's Nguyen Thu Thu to the mat en route to taking the gold medal in the women's 59-kg division in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games wrestling competition held at the San Andres Gym in Manila yesterday. Another Filipino, Marcus Valda, put away the gold in the 96-kg, men's class, beating Thailand's Ronnachai Sawanpong in the finals.

Wushu bets post 5 more victories

THE PHILIPPINES BAGGED FIVE of the 12 wushu gold medals staked yesterday to easily win the sport's overall crown in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in competitions held at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports and Cultural Center in Manila.

The five victories brought to 11 the number of golds the country's crack squad captured in the Games. The team also took home 4 silver and 2 bronze medals to put 2003 SEAG champion Vietnam in the shade.

The Viets closed out with a 6-gold, 7-silver, 7-bronze count.

Vicky Ting and Aida Yang, who topped the female Taolu-Duilian (dual event with weapons) Tuesday, ruled the women's Taolu-Jianshu and Taolu-Daoshu events, respectively. They joined teammate Willy Wang as wushu's double gold medalists.

Rene Catalan, Edward Folayang and Rhea May Rifani triumphed over their Vietnamese counterparts to win their respective Sanshou events. Catalan easily beat Vietnam's Le Minh Tung in two rounds to win gold in the 48-kg. division, while Folayang defeated another Viet, Nguyen Duc Trung, in the men's 70-kg. division. Rifani downed a third Viet, Ngo Thi Ha , for the women's 52-kg. gold.

"They were excellent," said Julian Camacho, president of the national wushu federation. "I don't have anything but praises."

Earlier, Jennifer Lagilag and Rexel Nganhayna bowed to Bui Thi Nhu Trang and Tran Nhat Huy of Vietnam in the finals of the women's 45- and men's 56-kg. divisions, respectively, in the Sanshou events. Kenneth Lim lost to Singapore's Don Qiu Bin in the men's Taolu-Taijiquan-Taijijian, while Janice Hung settled for the silver in the women's action. *Sarah Morales*

Deluge of pencak golds on horizon; judo begins

By Francis Ochoa

CEBU CITY—THERE WERE NO medals given out here yesterday. But not for want of activity.

The Philippine pencak silat squad showed the bite that backed up some mean barking and assured itself of bronze medals even as an upbeat judo squad prepared to take the 23rd Southeast Asian Games by storm in this southern city.

Add to this a tinge of controversy that struck a sepak takraw squad and gave the country's women's team a sliver of hope for the gold.

A brash Christopher Yabut, the RP pencak silat skipper and the No. 1 in the world in his category, whipped chief rival Luftan Budi Santosa of Indonesia, 5-0, in class B action (50-55 kg) a day after he laid down the challenge for his teammates by saying they no longer "have any reason to lose."

Jul-Omar Abdulhakim drubbed Nantachat Kansakom of Thailand, 5-0, in class A action (45-40 kg) while 13-year veteran Marniel Dimla hammered out the same result against Indon medal hope Fentje Maengkom. The three Filipinos are now assured of at least a bronze medal.

Action continues today at the Cebu Coliseum.

At the Mandaue City sports complex, the country's top judokas hope to unleash a juggernaut with the hope of cornering most—if not all—of the 16 gold medals at stake in the sport.

"Who wouldn't want to win all the gold medals at stake?" asked Anecia Pedroso, one of four coaches of a national judo squad that is the most prepared in the history of the country's participation in the biennial meet.

Controversy snuck into the sepak takraw competition after three Myanmar players faced gender questions.

According to Cebu Southeast Asian Games organizing committee chair Jonathan Guardo, the RP squad has already filed a protest questioning the gender of the said players.

INQUIRER sources said suspicions arose when the three players were subjected to a mandatory dope test after winning the gold medal via the degree-of-difficulty decision. Officials who tested the three players were surprised to find that the three had "unusual-looking" genitals.

The three players were brought to the USC's clinic and underwent preliminary tests. *With reports from Jonas Panerio, Brian Ochoa, Calvin Cordova, Cebu Daily News and Marc Anthony Camasura, Contributor*

SPORTS

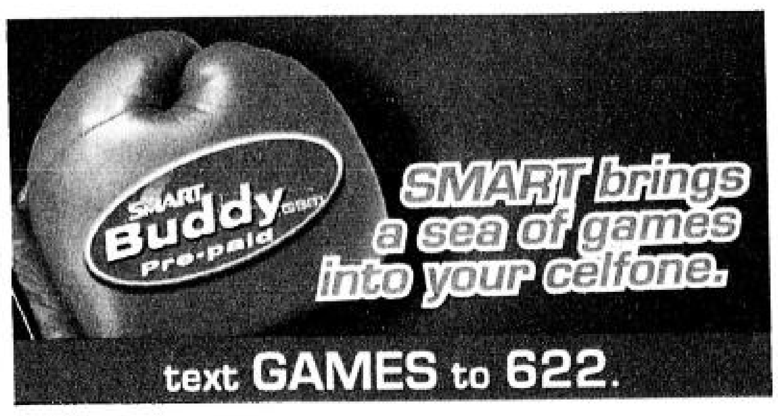
Sta. Lucia Tour final stage in 3 venues today

A MARATHON THREE straight days of play starting today in three different courses will decide the exciting chase for the overall title in the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2005.

The three clubs leading the way in the battle for the Sta. Lucia Cup, Alta Vista, Rancho Palos Verdes and Eagle Ridge, will be going for the needed points in the 54-hole finale of the tourney serving as the Luzon stage of a nationwide series.

The 240 players representing the eight competing clubs will be distributed in three host venues—the Summit Point in Lipa, Batangas, the Player course of Orchard Golf in Dasmariñas, Cavite and the Aoki course of the Eagle Ridge—for the next three days.

There will be three venues for today and tomorrow while Saturday's final round of play will be at the Orchard and Eagle Ridge which will also host the grand awards ceremony.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ABC SPORTS, THE LEAD BROADCASTER OF THE 23rd SEA Games, will telecast the badminton competitions at the PhilSports Arena today from 10 a.m. and at 3 p.m. In between, ABC Sports will show a replay of the yesterday's athletics highlights. Beach volleyball will also be shown from 7 to 9 p.m. before ABC Sports wraps it up with the day's highlights at 10:30.

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Spurs hold down Kobe, nip Lakers

SAN ANTONIO—MANU GINOBILI SCORED 15 of his 22 points in the second half as San Antonio fended off a late charge by the Los Angeles Lakers, 90-84, in NBA action on Tuesday.

The win was the Spurs' sixth straight over the Lakers, who played their first game in San Antonio under coach Phil Jackson since a victory over the Spurs in Game 5 of the 2004 playoffs on a last-second basket by Derek Fisher.

Kobe Bryant, averaging better than 40 points in his last five games, struggled to get open shots while being defended by Bruce Bowen. Bryant finished with 25 points, but shot 9-for-33.

In other games, it was Milwaukee 133-111; Houston 100, Atlanta 85; LA Clippers 93, Minnesota 84; Sacramento 110, Charlotte 92; Philadelphia 107, Portland 83 and Indiana 84, Utah 60.

In Milwaukee, Rookie Andrew Bogut made two free throws late in overtime, then blocked a potential game-tying shot at the buzzer Tuesday to lift Bucks past the Dallas Mavericks. Bogut, the No. 1 pick in the draft, finished with a career-high 19 points.

In Houston, sidelined since Nov. 18 with a back injury, Tracy McGrady returned to score 25 points and Houston snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating Atlanta. *AP*

Cavite int'l 7-cock semis on

THE SEMIFINAL ROUND OF THE CAVITE 7-COCK International Derby sizzles at 4 p.m. today with 90 on tap at the Cavite Coliseum Derby Center and Casino. Among the early frontrunners are Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano, Rey Castaneda of Davao, Efren Canlas, Gerry Ramos, Marlon Bautista, Elwin Javelosa of Bacolod, Vic Sison, Sen. Bong Revilla, Jun Villar and Winchester Gold entry. Survivors tonight advance to the 3-cock finals this Saturday. For inquiries, call 0915-5742399 or (046)-9704810.

Japan, HK bets join derby

FOUR COCKERS FROM JAPAN AND HONG KONG are vying in Makati Coliseum's Pamaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby on Dec. 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 26 and 28. Noriaki Morita of Japan, Jackson Chua, Michael Miguel and HK Malby of Hong Kong are among the more than 200 confirmed entries so far. For reservation of cockhouses, call 896-3545 or 895-6475. The event is WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp.'s first major offering for the new cock season. WTJ is headed by Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co.

Ma of Caidic passes away

MERCEDES FLORES CAIDIC, MOTHER OF GINEBRA team manager Allan Caidic, passed away last Nov. 29 after a lingering illness. She was 70. Her remains lie in state at the Arlington East Pasig Chapels in Pasig. Interment will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 6. 10 a.m. at Loyola Memorial in Marikina. She is survived by husband Edil, children Allan and Milotte, Ronnie and Marga Caidic, Reggie and Peng Caidic, Fina and Jay Laurena, Nior and Cherry Caidic and 12 grandchildren.

GOLDEN MOMENTS

Not a coin diver, but a diver of golds

LOS BAÑOS—SHE DENIES HAVING ever dived for coins, but Shiela Mae Perez admits the Davao City piers used to be her playground as a 9-year-old kid.

"*Hindi naman sa tinatanggi ko ang pinagmulan ko, pero masyado akong na-*down *nung napanood ko 'yun sa* TV (It's not that I'm denying my humble past but I got affected by the TV report)," said the 19-year-old Perez, who yesterday became the first triple gold medalist of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"*Lahat kami na taga-Davao nakatira sa may pier*," she said. "Pero yung naninisid ng barya, mga Badjao 'yun (All of us from Davao lived by the pier. But the ones who dive for coins were the Badjaos). Marc Anthony Reyes

Proving the hype

MIGUEL MOLINA ONCE AGAIN rescued the country's swimming campaign last night, shattering the national record in the men's 200-meter individual medley for his second gold medal.

His time of two minutes and 3.80 seconds broke the RP mark he himself posted this year during the World meet in Montreal where he placed seventh.

And his performance showed that he is still one of the best swimmers in the region following the failure of other US-based swimmers to win gold medals.

"I came in very prepared because of the competitions I entered this year," said Molina. "I hope to sustain my form and give honor to the country."

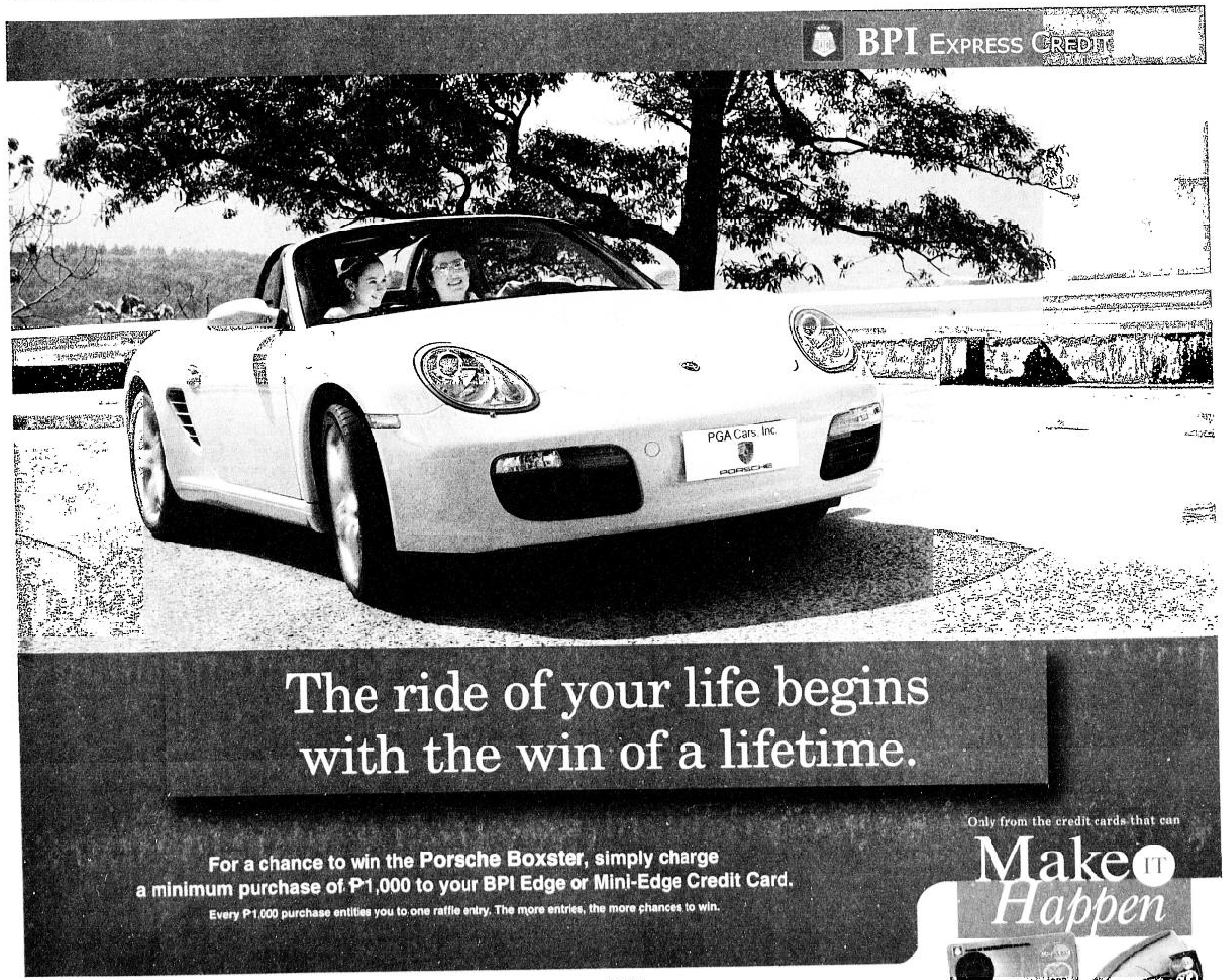
Lefty strikes

ALTHOUGH LEFTIES ARE RARE in the field of sports, they come in handy if you are a bowler. Why? The lanes where the ball passes are rarely used, giving the player a distinct advantage.

A team-up of lefties gave the Philippines its second gold medal in bowling as former World Cup champion CJ Suarez and Ernesto "Joonee" Gatchalian Jr. won in the men's doubles event.

"*Sobrang saya* (We are overjoyed)," said Suarez. "We had a feeling we would win this. We were paired in our simulation games and we were scoring consistently. We had a feeling we would be paired." *June Engracia*

(Compiled by Eric C. Abenojar)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'I was a virgin till I was 17'

MiG Ayesa discusses sex in a world stalked by AIDS, and how he coped

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

STRAIGHT FROM THE AIRPORT, Fil-Aussie music celebrity MiG Ayesa rushed to Segafredo's Espresso Bar in Makati to face the press on Tuesday.

He is headlining MTV's "Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS" concert tonight at the Fort Open Field, Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

INQUIRER Entertainment asked the first question: How sexually active was MiG as a teenager?

"I was a virgin till I was 17, and tried to make up for lost time," he admitted, laughing. "By then, however, I had become aware of AIDS, so the condom became my best friend."

As a Roman Catholic, MiG knows that the Church frowns upon the use of prophylactics in helping fight the disease that has remained incurable more than 20 years after it was discovered.

"This might get me into trouble," the rocker said, "but we're not living in medieval times and it's not the time to [worry about being] politically correct. This is a time for action, to get real."

Close encounters

Before gaining worldwide exposure via the "Rock Star: INXS" reality TV singing competition, MiG had performed in theater musicals such as "Rent," whose characters include an AIDS victim. MiG's favorite song is "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, whose flamboyant front man Freddie Mercury died from complications arising from AIDS.

MiG, 35 and married, revealed that he's had friends who have died or have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"A very dear friend of mine told me just recently that he had HIV," MiG said. "I was very up-front with him. I asked how he was feeling, and was he taking care of himself and not doing things he shouldn't do ... To have HIV is not a death sentence. There are new drugs that help prolong life. People with AIDS are not lepers—we can hug them and give them some comfort. This is a disease that strikes anyone, especially innocent people."

Yes, children

At the same press conference, Unicef representative Dale Rutstein announced that, age groupwise, children are the latest victims. Statistics show that 540,000 kids died of AIDS in 2004 and some 15 million more have been orphaned due to the global scourge.

Unicef and UNAIDS are teaming up with MTV Philippines to provide life-saving information to the multitude of youth expected to attend the free concert which coincides with World AIDS Day.

Over 30 acts and celebrity guests are on the bill, including Bamboo, Barbie Almalbis, Brownman Revival, Cueshe, Greyhoundz, Hale, Imago, Kitchie Nadal, Jeepney Joyride, Kamikazee, Kjwan, Mojofly, MYMP, Paramita, Parokya ni Edgar, Radioactive Sago Project and Rivermaya.

"IT'S NOT the time to worry about being politically correct." ERIK ARAZAS

'Bilog' poster, not the film, rated X

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE rumors are coming from," says digital filmmaker Cris Pablo, whose latest work, "Bilog/Circles," was reportedly given an X rating by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

An e-mail received by INQUIRER Entertainment claimed the movie was "X'd twice."

"Only the poster was rejected by the MTRCB," Pablo clarified. "They explained that it was because it showed half-naked men. I don't understand; I've seen worse on billboards."

The MTRCB says the rumors are 'a gimmick.' Page A2-3

BILOG/ A2-3

DID YOU KNOW...

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

Goblet of money

PLAYING IN 43 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING the US, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" raised its overseas revenue to $209 million last weekend, for a total worldwide gross of $410.1 million. Sales at US/Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official trackers: 1) "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," $54.9M; 2) "Walk the Line," $19.7M; 3) "Yours, Mine & Ours," $17.5M; 4) "Chicken Little," $12.4M; 5) "Rent," $10.7M; 6) "Just Friends," $9.3M; 7) "Pride & Prejudice," $7M; 8) "Derailed," $4.7M; 9) "In the Mix," $4.5M; 10) "The Ice Harvest," $3.7M. *AP*

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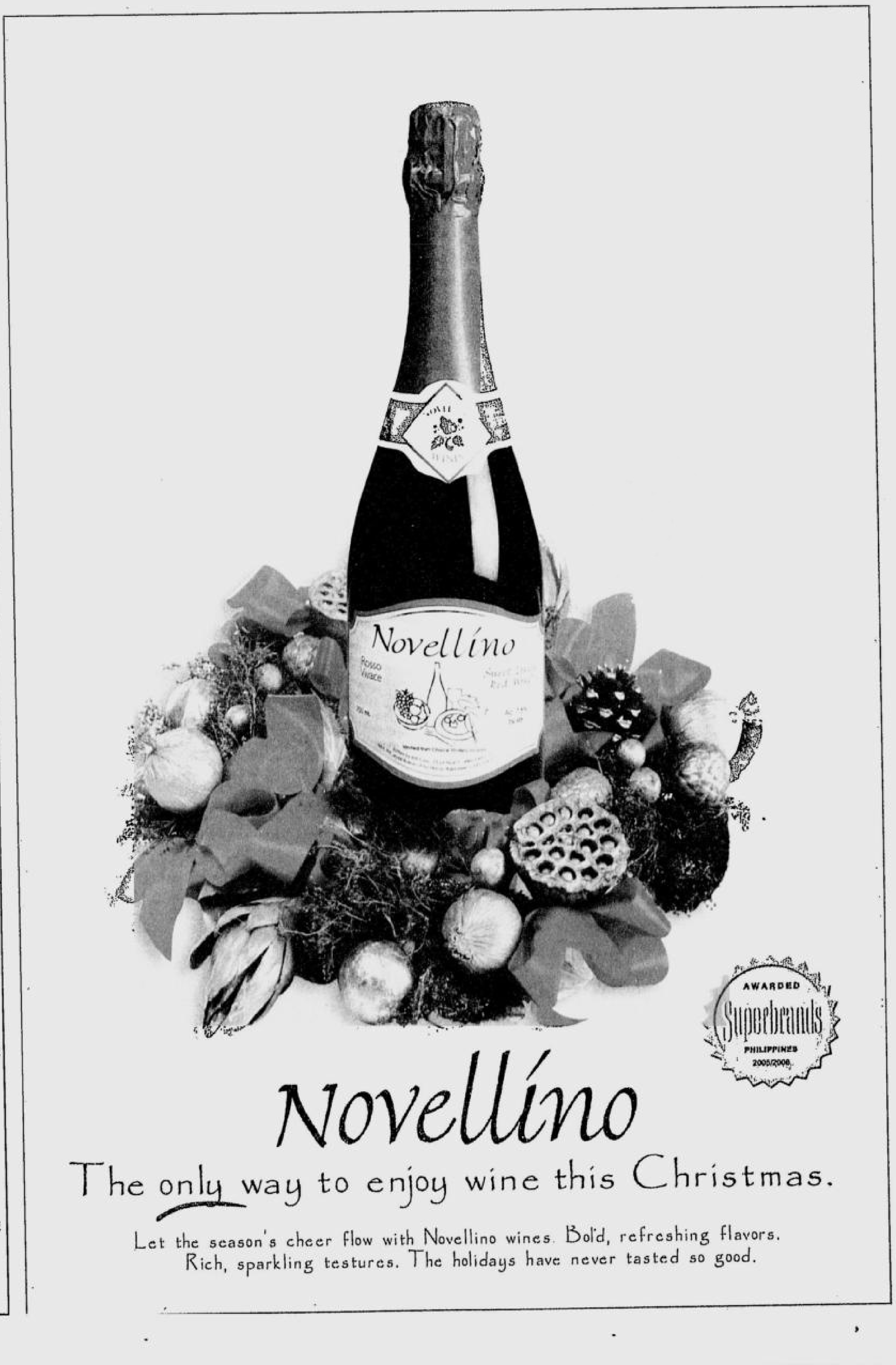

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Plinky promises more details soon

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MY HEART GOES OUT TO **PLINKY Recto.** I got a text from her and she promised to give me details of her ongoing case versus the former lover who maltreated her. I will share her story with you in my next column. I have been bombarded with text messages and e-mail asking who the culprit is. I respect Plinky's decision not to name him just yet. All she said was to search for General Jarque's case on the Internet to find out the identity of her violent ex. After such a harrowing experience with him, it's no wonder that Plinky can't even utter his name.

Janet, is that you?

Geneva Cruz almost did a **Janet Jackson** at one corporate event. She emerged onstage in a red hot outfit to sing with Freestyle. Suddenly the straps her gown went loose and her breasts were nearly exposed. People went wild and rushed to the front to take pics. Good thing her boyfriend **KC Montero** beat them to the stage and covered her up. He requested the audience to settle down and refrain from photographing Gen at such an awkward moment. He managed to deliver an impromptu spiel. Gen exited for awhile, then came back to finish her number. What a trooper!

Forbidden fruit

Guess who this actress/host is! She has such an angelic face but looks can be deceiving sometimes. She makes life hellish for people around her. Now wonder her actor husband is always linked with other women. He's probably fed up with her bitchy ways. The carpenters of a friend of mine worked for the celebrity couple—they were paid, but reportedly starved. One day, the workers said, they were so hungry, they ate *macopas* that had fallen from the tree. Seeing this, they recounted, actress started cursing them. What? Was that the Garden of Eden and the workers took forbidden fruit? (Clue: The actress/host has a daily show)

Preggy at 16

Guess who this young actor is! He got expelled from school because he got one of his classmates pregnant! They're both 16. Even the girl was kicked out! (Clue: The teen actor is a product of a star search)

Sexy pimp

Guess who this sexy star is! She pimps for a Korean billionaire billeted at a posh hotel. She is required to bring him at least five girls a day! The sexy star has brought co-dancers, models and actresses over. A semi-retired actress who had stretch marks was rejected, but not before she was given 20K. (Clue: The sexy pimp is part of a female group)

Just asking...

Is it true that **Tommy Tanchanco,** manager of **Kitchie Nadal** who also handles **Barbie Almabis,** prodded Barbie to go solo and caused Barbie's Cradle to disband?

Maximo to the max!

"Brilliant." "Pure magic." "A sheer delight." "A masterpiece." These are just a few of the many accolades that critics have bestowed on "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," winner of this year's Best First Film at the Montreal World Film Festival, and just recently, of the Best Picture plum at the ImagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival in Canada. It received an A rating at the Cinema Evaluation Board Now, Filipinos nationwide will finally get a chance to watch it and know the delightful 12-year old boy Maxi. I can hardly wait to catch the film because Maxi reminds me of my own "dalagita" IC in many ways.

"Ang Pagdadalaga," tells the story of Maxi, a handsome boy adored by his family of petty crooks. He cooks for them, cleans the house, mends their clothes, and even covers their tracks so they won't get caught. Maxi's coming of age begins when he meets Victor, a handsome, honest policeman with whom he develops a unique friendship.

Victor teaches him about loyalty, survival, and the joys and pains of first love. Fresh discovery **Nathan Lopez** stars as the big-hearted Maxi, and model-turned-actor **JR Valentin** as Victor, the principled policeman.

For Feedback E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

ROUNDUP

Where to wed?

LONDON—Veteran British rock star Elton John revealed Monday he is "scrabbling" for a venue for his forthcoming "marriage" to boyfriend David Furnish when Britain lifts the veil on gay civil partnerships.

The showman has previously said that the ceremony, possibly on Dec. 21, will be a quiet affair. But the reception is expected to be a full-blown bash in line with John's lavish tastes. Canadian-born filmmaker Furnish has been at the flamboyant musician's side for 12 years. *AFP*

AIDS on 'Maalaala'

A woman's second lease on life becomes the thing that condemns her to society's judgment and to death. This is the story of Au, a Filipina "person with AIDS" whose life story will be dramatized in tonight's episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya," on ABS-CBN. Jeffrey Jeturian directs Desiree del Valle from a script by Francis E. Pasion.

'Friendly' format

NEW YORK—Feuding ex-friends Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie will take "The Simple Life" to E! Entertainment Television in a new format that allows them to have nothing to do with each other.

Fox had declined to air a fourth season of the one-time reality hit, but E! said Monday it would show 10 new episodes starting next spring.

The series' initial charm was the humor of spoiled, bratty rich girls interacting with real people and each other. But the two had a falling out, with Hilton saying last spring they were no longer friends. *AP*

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE GP
2 (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN GP
3 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13
4 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 (SDDS) CHICKEN LITTLE
3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 GOLD (DTS) HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
6 GOLD (SDDS) CHICKEN LITTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 (DOLBY) PRIME
9 (DOLBY) THE MYTH
10 (DOLBY) HARI NG SABLAY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
3 (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 (DTS) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY) FOUR BROTHERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 (DOLBY) BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 (DTS) HARI NG SABLAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH
5 MAHAROT

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE CROW-4
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 MAHAROT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 (DTS ES) CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MYTH
3 (DOLBY) HARI NG SABLAY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 TIM BURTONE CORPSE BRIDE

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CHICKEN LITTLE
5 THE MYTH

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 MAHAROT
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2

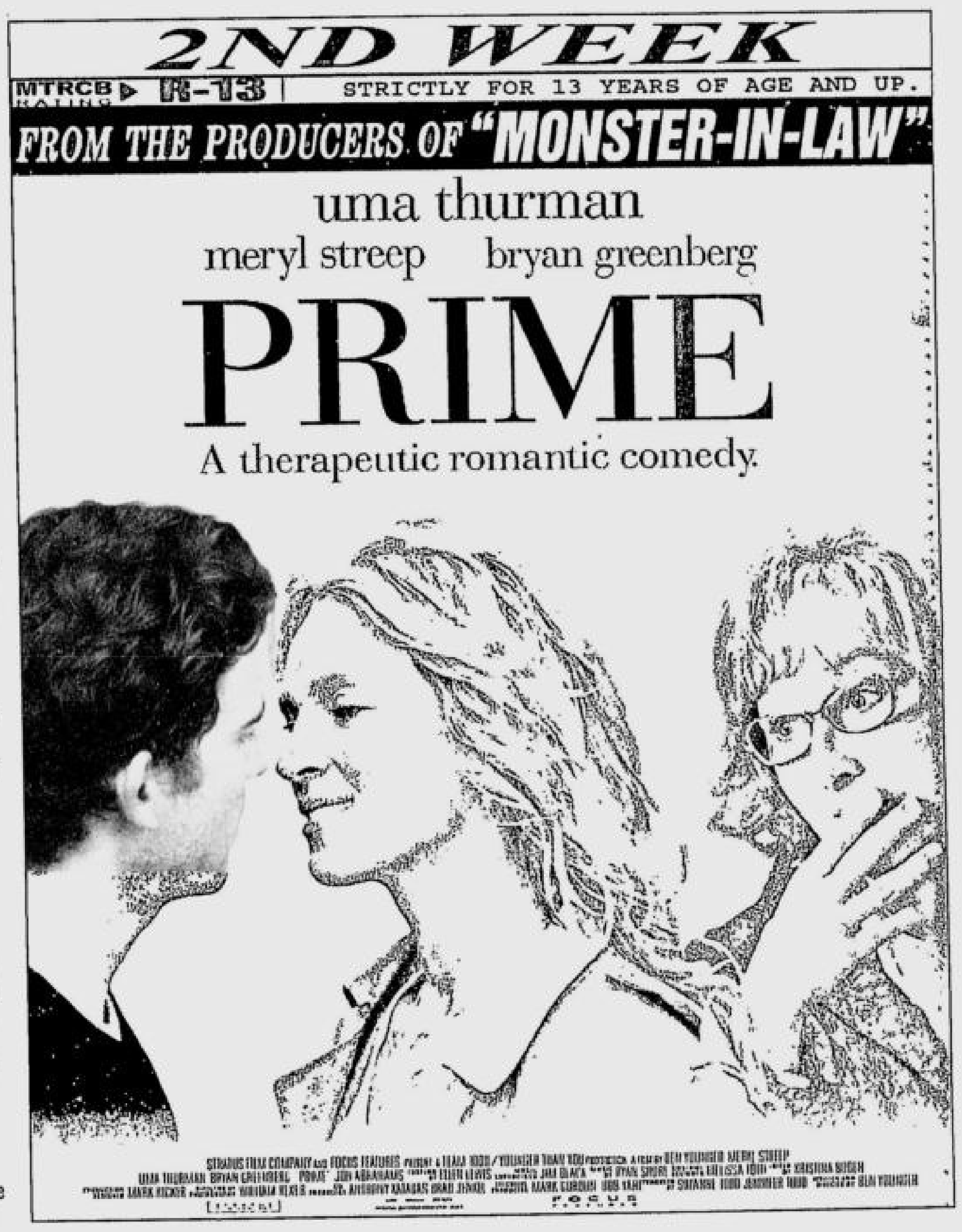
Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) UNFATEFULL
2 MAHAROT
3 SPEED RUN-2
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 MAHAROT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MAHAROT
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
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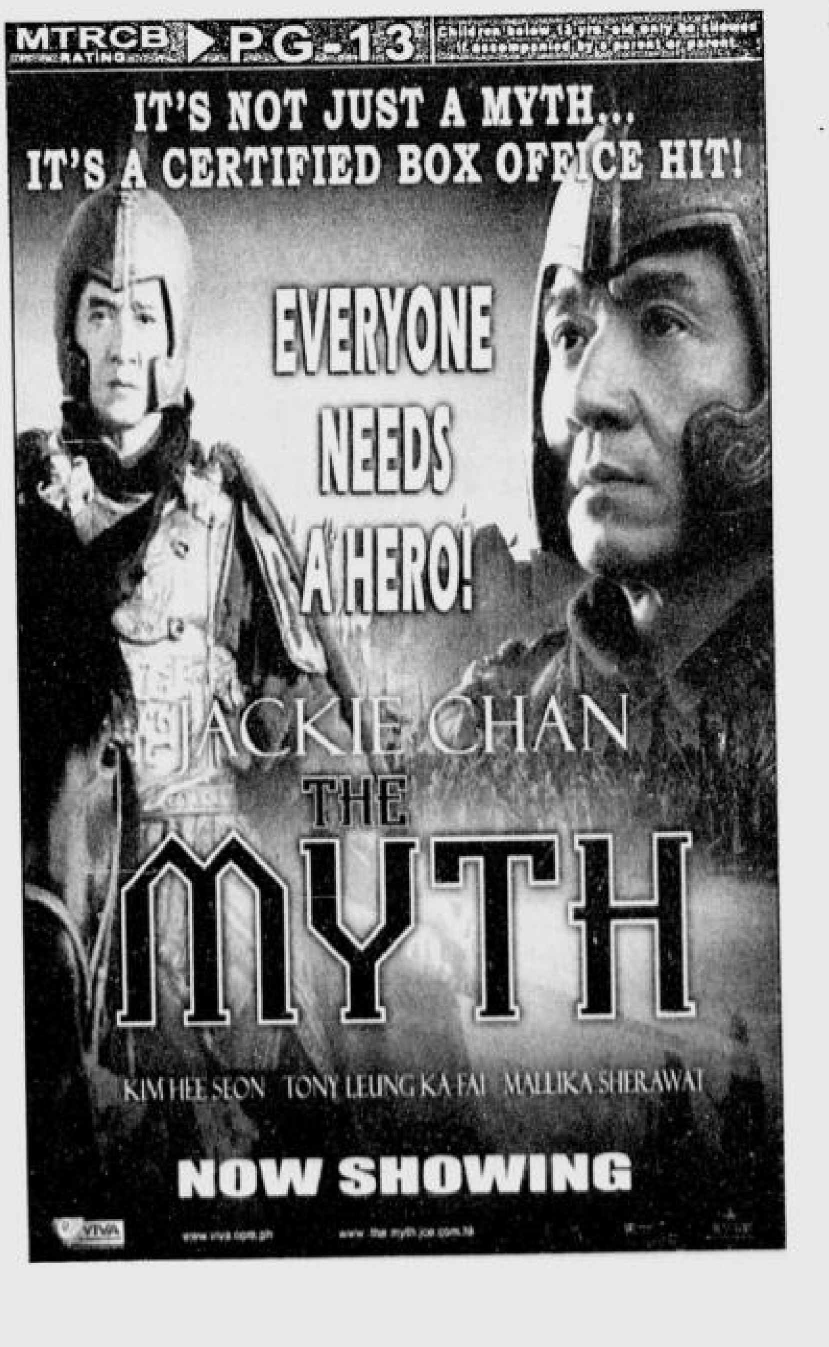
MTRCB RATING PG-13
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IT'S A CERTIFIED BOX OFFICE HIT!
EVERYONE NEEDS A HERO!
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THE MYTH
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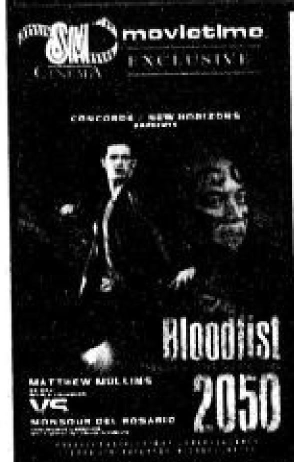

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Bloodfist 2050
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Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 6 • Cinema 2

movietime EXCLUSIVE
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Now Showing

LOOK WHO'S WATCHING AT SM MANILA?

CHICKEN LITTLE
NOW SHOWING

BE THE FIRST TO WATCH

① Ang Pagdadalaga Ni Maximo Oliveros ② Chicken Little ③ Hari Ng Sablay ④ Just Like Heaven ⑤ Merry Christmas

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00FS/12:25MF/03:30/06:35
09:15LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:20FS/12:40MF/02:45/04:50
06:55/08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:35END
MEGAMALL
3 THE MYTH
11:15FS/11:40FS/02:10/04:40
07:10/09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 CINEMA 1
RESERVED
2 THE MYTH
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:12LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE MYTH
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 THE MAN
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 TRUMPETS
11 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12 PRIME

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 PRIME
7 THE MYTH
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MAN
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 MERRY CHRISTMAS
3 PRIME
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
10 APRIL SNOW
11 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
12 THE MAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE MAN
5 THE MYTH
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 PRIME

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MAN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MANILA
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE MYTH
7 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
8 PRIME
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 MERRY CHRISTMAS
11 FLIGHTPLAN
12 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CINEMA CANLAYAZA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MAN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 HARI NG SABLAY

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"Kuwento ito ng batang badling pero hindi ito tungkol sa kabaklaan. It's about first love but more importantly it's about love for family. I LOVE THIS FILM!" Olivia M. Lamasan (Director, MILAN)
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Jury Prize for BEST PICTURE and BEST ACTOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN Cinemanila 2005
BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR and BEST ACTOR Asian Festival of First Films
BEST PICTURE imagineNATIVE Film Festival Toronto

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FOR INQUIRIES CALL MAXX-IDA 551-7777

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 CRY WOLF
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 THE MAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN

SM CITY ILOILO
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 RESERVED
3 DOMINO
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 PRIME

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00
GP
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00
GP
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00
GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE MYTH PG13 - 12:15,5:15 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 2:45,7:45,10:15	CHICKEN LITTLE GP 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00
PRIME R13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Please call for screening schedule	JUST LIKE HEAVEN GP 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15

SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41.

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CINEMA 1 The EXORCISM of Emily Rose PG13 - 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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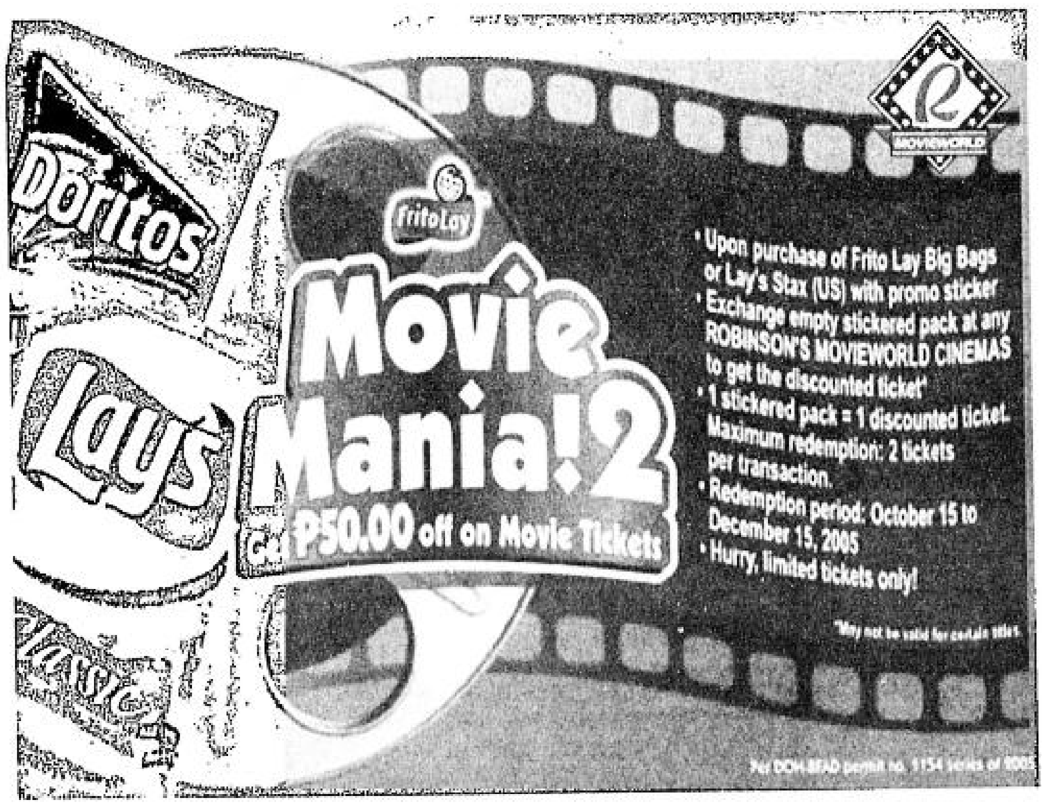
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:45, 1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:20
CINEMA 4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
CINEMA 5 CHICKEN LITTLE GP - 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
December 2 & 3 TIM PAYAG & AL MANALO - Stand Up Comedy 8:30PM
December 10, 2005 CUESHE 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635



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Araneta Center Leisure Guide.
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10
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ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
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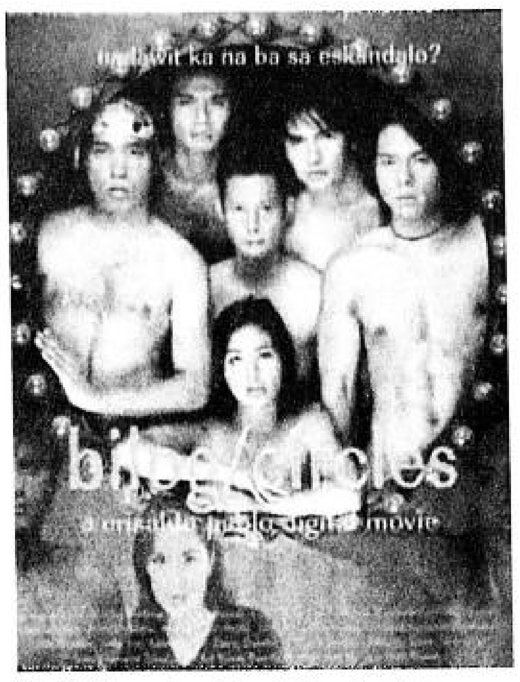
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA MERRY CHRISTMAS 12:30 / 6:20 HARRY POTTER 3:00 / 9:00
JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	CHICKEN LITTLE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
MERRY CHRISTMAS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
HARI NG SABLAY 12:35 / 3:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15	PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00	❹ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
❷ HARI NG SABLAY 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	❺ THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
❸ CHICKEN LITTLE 12:10 R3 / 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
PETER & GORDON - WORLD REUNION TOUR December 1, Thursday 8:30 pm
ATENEO - LA SALLE DREAM GAMES '05 Dec. 8 Thu LEGENDS GAME 4:30 pm DREAM GAME 7pm
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES.



MTRCB members found this offensive.

Laguardia says it's 'a gimmick'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"GIMMICK LANG 'YAN. THIS IS NOT THE first time that the MTRCB is being used to promote a film," said Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chair Marissa Laguardia.

The MTRCB chief was reacting to news reports that, for the second time, the Board rated "X" or "not fit for public viewing" the independent film "Bilog/Circles," directed by Cris Pablo.

According to Laguardia, the producer, Grupong Sinehan, has not even applied for a permit to exhibit the film.

Only after securing a permit could the Board schedule the preview of "Bilog/Circles," she added.

"How can the Board give an X rating when none of its members has seen the film?" Laguardia pointed out in a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday.

What three MTRCB Board members thought should be banned, Laguardia stressed, was the movie's poster.

"I would have rejected the poster myself," she said. "There are half-naked men and a half-naked woman covering her private parts with her hands."

A media release sent to the INQUIRER said "Bilog/Circles" would be premiered at the Robinson's Galleria in Pasig City on Dec. 2.

"If its producers want that premiere to push through," insisted Laguardia, "now is the time to act."

'Bilog' poster ...

From page A2-1

Pablo explained that he had yet to submit the film for review. He hoped to do so yesterday or early today, he said, adding that he was eyeing an R-13 rating.

His first, "Duda," was rated X; his second, "Bathhouse," R-18.

"[But] I wouldn't be surprised if we got an R-18," Pablo said. "All gay films are automatically rated R-18."

He hoped to unveil his film tomorrow, at the Robinsons Galleria. Regular run begins Dec. 7.

Newcomers

"Bilog/Circles" features newcomers Reiven Bulado, Christopher Canizares, Apollo Jones, Xeno and Alynna Velasquez.

Archie de Calma, lead actor, expressed confidence in Pablo, saying, "He knows the limits."

Independent producers of digital films, Pablo said, shell out P8,000 per review screening and P800 per poster submission.

"Small producers should be encouraged instead," he pointed out. "But I think having problems with the MTRCB is a good sign. 'Masahista' and 'Maximo Oliveros' went through the eye of a needle, and they got good buzz."

"Maximo," according to producer Raymond Lee, was almost given an R-13. Lee told INQUIRER Entertainment: "I explained that our film espoused good values, like loyalty to family. On second screening, we got a PG-13. The MTRCB listens to filmmakers."

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4• THX
2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 MERRY CHRISTMAS
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 THE MYTH
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 PRIME

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 PRIME
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 THE MYTH

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE MYTH
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 PRIME
6 APRIL SNOW
7 CHICKEN LITTLE
8 HARI NG SABLAY

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 THE MYTH

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 CHICKEN LITLLE
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

ROBINSONS CINEMAS Novaliches

Now oPen!

Cinema 1 HARI NG SABLAY
Cinema 2 CHICKEN LITTLE
Cinema 3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
Cinema 4 HARRY POTTER 4
Cinema 5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
Cinema 6 THE MYTH

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
5 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

LIPA (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 THE MYTH

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & the gOBLET of FIRE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 CRY_WOLF
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 CRY_WOLF
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 DOMINO

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 DOMINO

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AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

Win Nokia, Sony Ericsson Cellphones with Prepaid Kits, Gameboy Advance, iPod Shuffle, DVD Players and Electronic Gift Certificates on the monthly draws. On the Grand Raffle Draw, get a chance to win **P10,000 and P50,000 CASH Tax Free!**

See leaflets for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-183, Series of 2005

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
JVC Interscholastic Badminton Championship November 21 to 23, 2005	Christmas Serenade w/ Afinity Nov. 30	Metro Product Launching November 26, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

WWF Savour Nature Festive Buffet
November 23, 2005, GB 3 Park

GREENBELT'S Onstage AYALA CENTER

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 HARI NG SABLAY	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CHICKEN LITTLE	2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 THE MYTH	6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	7 PRIME
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 PRIME GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHICKEN LITTLE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 PRIME	5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE	3 HARI NG SABLAY	4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

Sex. Murder. Mystery.
Welcome to the party.
kiss kiss bAng bang
From The creator of Lethal weapon.

OPENS DECEMBER 7 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

kiss kiss bAng bang

"OUTRAGEOUS, OFF-THE-WALL FUN."
— Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"THE MOST ORIGINAL FILM THIS YEAR."
— Pete Hammond, MAXIM MAGAZINE

"AN OFF THE WALL WINNER."
— Stephen Mosallom, INTERVIEW MAGAZINE

AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

1. Just Like Heaven
2. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
3. Chicken Little
4. Hari ng Sablay
5. Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET! Bonifacio Global City
The fun is in the finds

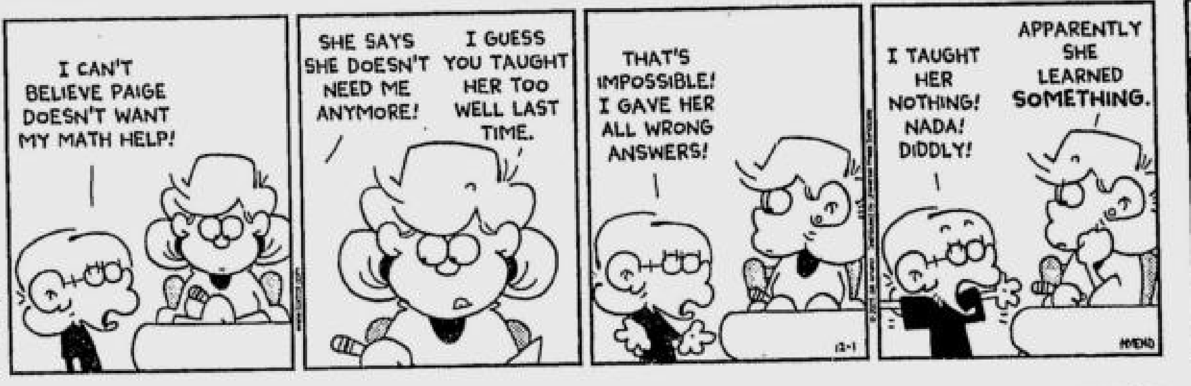
Holiday Fireworks Show

November 20, 27
December 4, 11, 18 and 25,
7 pm at the Playzone

Market! Market! Simbang Gabi
at the 5th level lobby
Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm

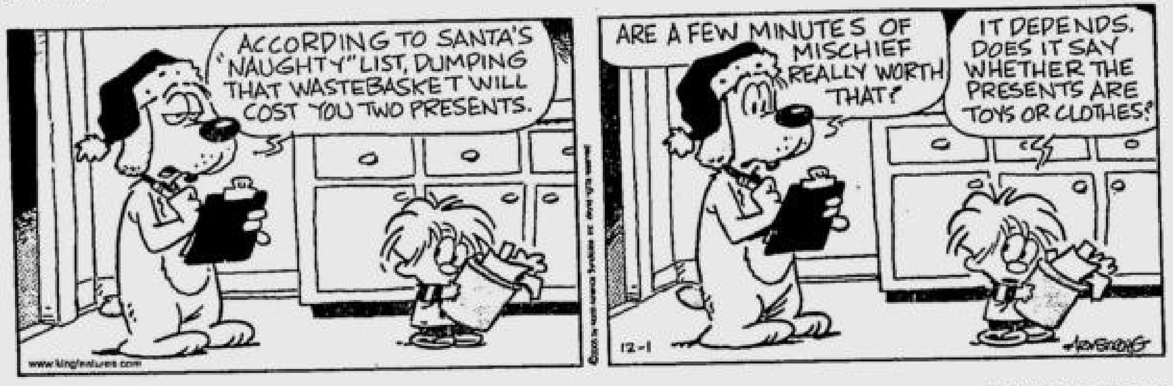
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I CAN'T BELIEVE PAIGE DOESN'T WANT MY MATH HELP!
SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE!
I GUESS YOU TAUGHT HER TOO WELL LAST TIME.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I GAVE HER ALL WRONG ANSWERS!
12-1
I TAUGHT HER NOTHING! NADA! DIDDLY!
APPARENTLY SHE LEARNED SOMETHING.
AMEND

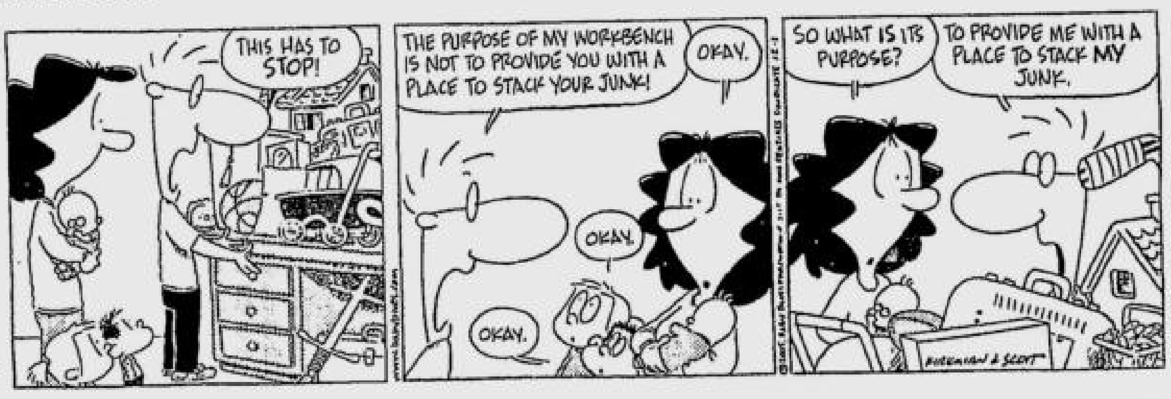
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ACCORDING TO SANTA'S "NAUGHTY" LIST, DUMPING THAT WASTEBASKET WILL COST YOU TWO PRESENTS.
ARE A FEW MINUTES OF MISCHIEF REALLY WORTH THAT?
IT DEPENDS. DOES IT SAY WHETHER THE PRESENTS ARE TOYS OR CLOTHES?
www.kingfeatures.com
12-1
ARMSTRONG

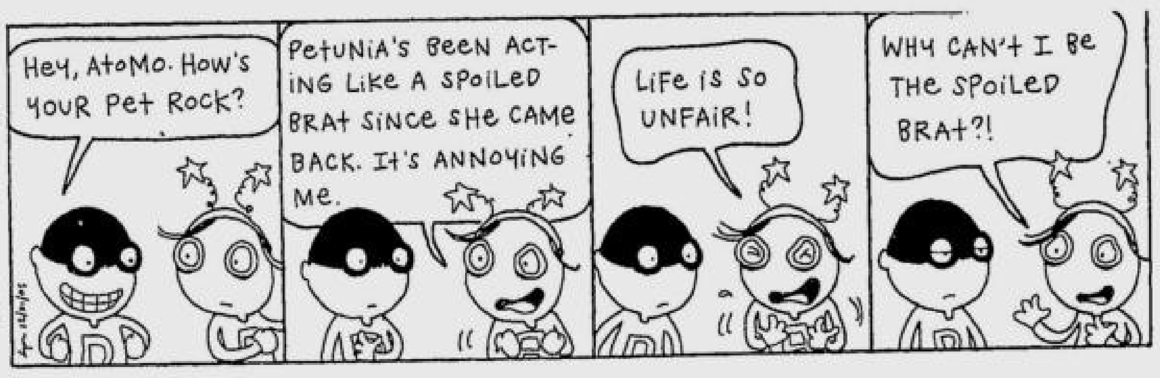
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THIS HAS TO STOP!
THE PURPOSE OF MY WORKBENCH IS NOT TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A PLACE TO STACK YOUR JUNK!
OKAY.
OKAY.
OKAY.
SO WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?
TO PROVIDE ME WITH A PLACE TO STACK MY JUNK.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

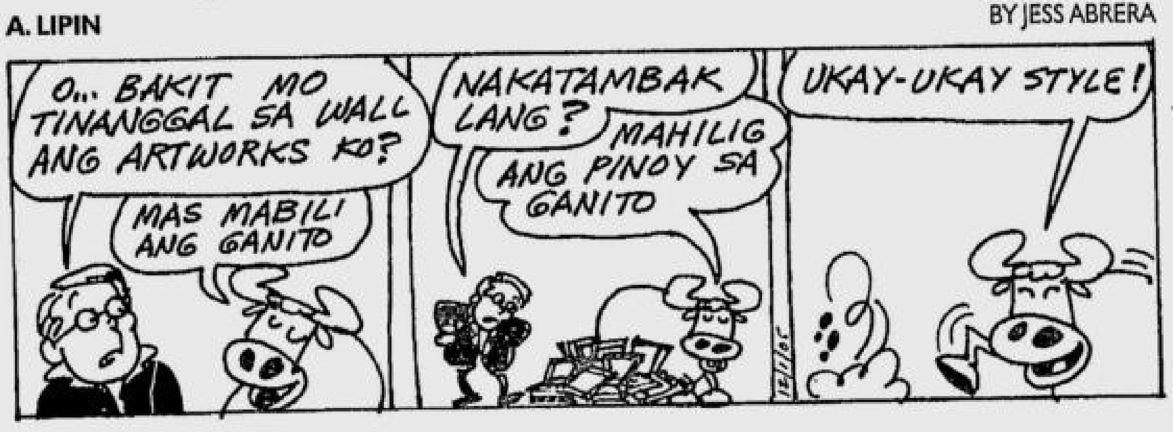
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, AtoMo. How's your Pet Rock?
PetuNia's Been Acting Like A Spoiled BRAt Since She CAMe BACK. It's ANNOYiNG Me.
Life is So UNFAIR!
WHY CAN'T I Be The SPoiLed BRAt?!

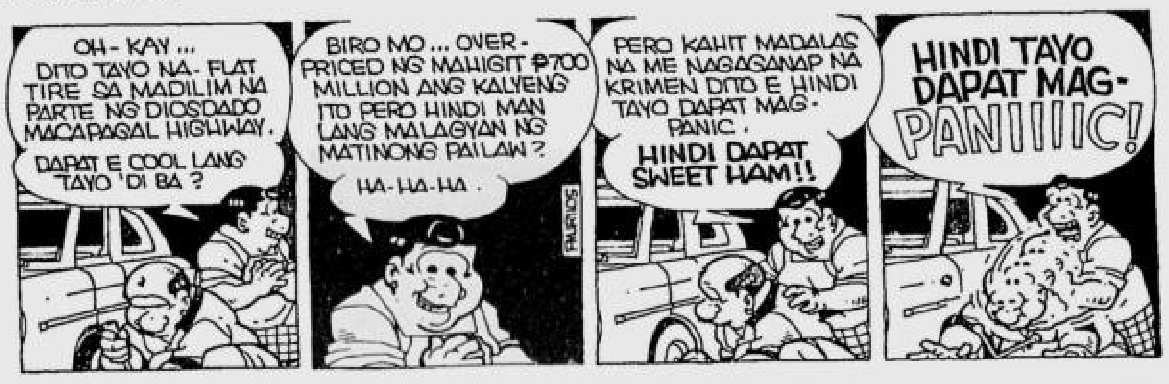
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT MO TINANGGAL SA WALL ANG ARTWORKS KO?
MAS MABILI ANG GANITO
NAKATAMBAK LANG?
MAHILIG ANG PINOY SA GANITO
UKAY-UKAY STYLE!

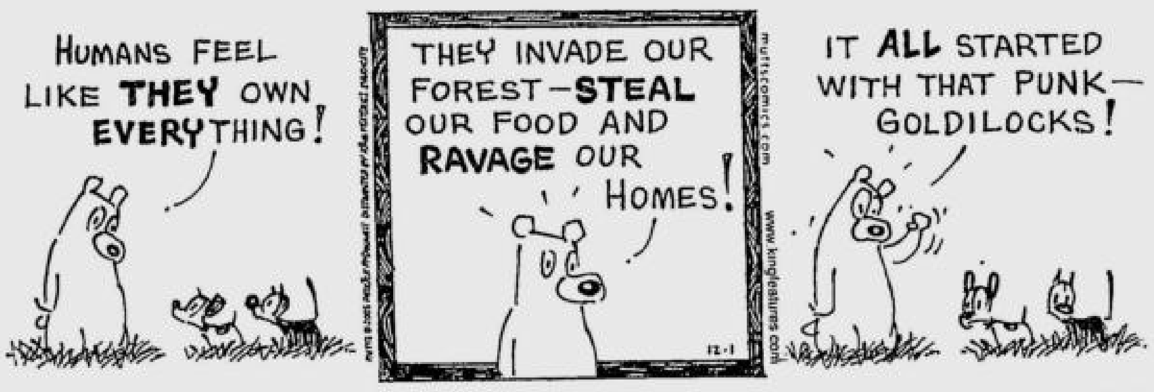
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


OH- KAY ... DITO TAYO NA- FLAT TIRE SA MADILIM NA PARTE NG DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL HIGHWAY.
DAPAT E COOL LANG TAYO 'DI BA ?
BIRO MO ... OVER- PRICED NG MAHIGIT ₱700 MILLION ANG KALYENG ITO PERO HINDI MAN LANG MALAGYAN NG MATINONG PAILAW ?
HA- HA- HA .
PERO KAHIT MADALAS NA ME NAGAGANAP NA KRIMEN DITO E HINDI TAYO DAPAT MAG- PANIC .
HINDI DAPAT SWEET HAM!!
HINDI TAYO DAPAT MAG- PANIIIIC!

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HUMANS FEEL LIKE THEY OWN EVERYTHING!
THEY INVADE OUR FOREST—STEAL OUR FOOD AND RAVAGE OUR HOMES!
IT ALL STARTED WITH THAT PUNK— GOLDILOCKS!
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
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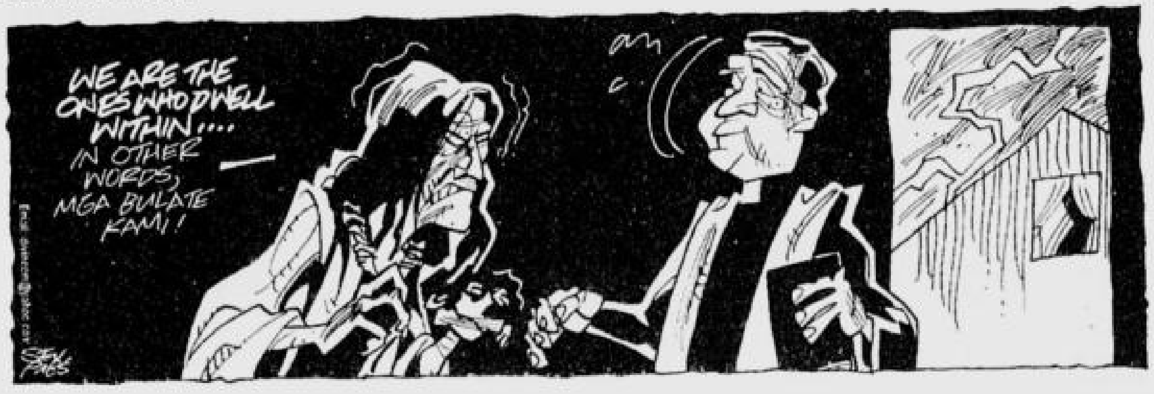
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WE ARE THE ONES WHO DWELL WITHIN.... IN OTHER WORDS, MGA BULATE KAMI!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your life is interesting. Frequently, unexpected things happen to you out of the blue! You're highly independent. You have many friends and admirers. You have strong organizational skills, which you use to find a means to express yourself. You love adventure and travel. After your 40s, you become more aware of friendship and networking in the world. An important choice awaits you in the next year.
Birthdate of: Bette Midler, actress/singer; Richard Pryor, comic actor; Woody Allen, actor/director/ writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's New Moon makes you resolved to pull your act together. In particular, you want to become more efficient in areas related to publishing, the media, travel, foreign countries and education.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You want to use the resources of others to make practical improvements at home now. Whatever you repair will last for a long time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's New Moon is directly opposite your sign. This means that today is a good day to discuss how to improve your closest relationships and partnerships.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your thoughts are serious today. You're thinking about the future and how you can best prepare for it. You might want to help siblings or neighbors as well.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Money spent today, especially on entertainment, vacations or anything related to children, will be money well spent. You don't feel frivolous at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You see ways to work behind the scenes to secure your home better. Someone older or wiser can give you advice today. It behooves you to listen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone older or more experienced (probably a friend or a member of a club you belong to) can benefit you in some way today. (After all, you don't have to reinvent the wheel.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you have bright ideas about how to save costs or do something in a more practical fashion at work, speak up. Your boss wants to know.

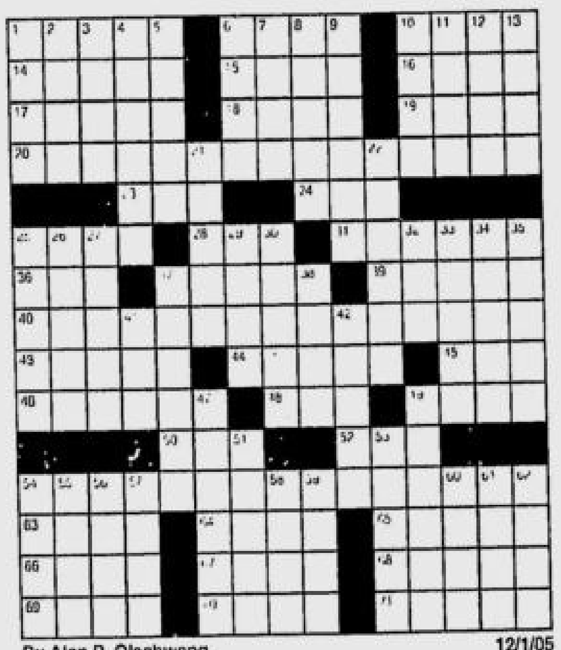
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is an excellent day to solidify travel plans or methods of dealing with foreign countries. You can also organize matters related to publishing, the media and higher education.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a great day for research or doing anything behind the scenes. You're willing to forgo today's pleasure for tomorrow's rewards.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Others are impressed with what you have to say today. Frequently, your ideas are so advanced, people don't understand you. Today, however, they see you as practical and farsighted.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Make travel plans today or tie up loose ends related to education and publishing. Someone older who lives far away might be able to help you in some way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

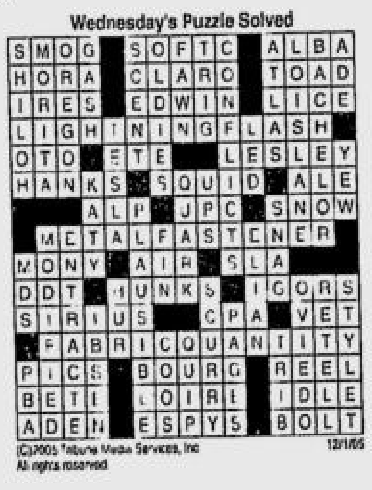


By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
12/1/05

ACROSS
1 "Quo __?"
6 Lays down the lawn
10 Speedy letters
14 Face the day
15 Entice
16 Chanel's nickname
17 Boston fish offering
18 Coll. course
19 Make muddy
20 Start of Evan Esar's definition of an optimist
23 Doe in "Bambi"
24 Director Ang
25 Shortened wd.
28 Journalist Hentoff
31 Siberian plain
36 Squeezing snake
37 Card for a reader
39 Of acreage
40 Part 2 of definition
43 Willow used for basketry
44 Chesterfields and davenports
45 Corded fabric
46 Repeat aloud
48 Deli hero
49 Unit of force
50 PC key
52 Compass pt.
54 End of definition
63 Uttered
64 Stringed instrument
65 Hawk's home
66 Kind of bean
67 Organic compound
68 Tex-Mex order
69 Org.
70 Trawlers' equipment
71 Had a powerful stench

DOWN
1 Enormous
2 Foot part
3 Calamitous
4 Atom with a variable nucleus
5 Family car
6 Passel
7 Sound of pain
8 Slobber
9 Intuits
10 Farmland unit
11 In a short time
12 Etcher's medium
13 D.C. bigwigs
21 Grannies
22 Flower parts
25 Detest
26 Capital of Idaho
27 Fundamental
29 BA word
30 Commotions
32 Block of time
33 Gardner's Mason
34 Eucharist plate
35 Marry on the run
37 Clan pattern
38 Bean curd
41 Ring of flowers
42 Tag
47 Five after six
49 Beat
51 Coil about
53 Blind strips
54 Gaucho's device
55 "Exodus" author
56 Edible tubers
57 Sillitoe or Shepard
58 Italy's shape
59 Troubles
60 Killer whale
61 Serengeti stalker
62 Escritoire

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



S	M	O	G	■	S	O	F	T	C	■	A	L	B	A
H	O	R	A	■	C	L	A	R	O	■	T	O	A	D
I	R	E	S	■	E	D	W	I	N	■	L	I	C	E
L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G	F	L	A	S	H	■
O	T	O	■	E	T	E	■	■	L	E	S	L	E	Y
H	A	N	K	S	■	S	Q	U	I	D	■	A	L	E
■	■	■	A	L	P	■	J	P	C	■	S	N	O	W
■	M	E	T	A	L	F	A	S	T	E	N	E	R	■
M	O	N	Y	■	A	I	R	■	S	L	A	■	■	■
D	D	T	■	H	U	N	K	S	■	I	G	O	R	S
S	I	R	I	U	S	■	■	C	P	A	■	V	E	T
■	F	A	B	R	I	C	Q	U	A	N	T	I	T	Y
P	I	C	S	■	B	O	U	R	G	■	R	E	E	L
B	E	T	I	■	L	O	I	R	E	■	I	D	L	E
A	D	E	N	■	E	S	P	Y	S	■	B	O	L	T

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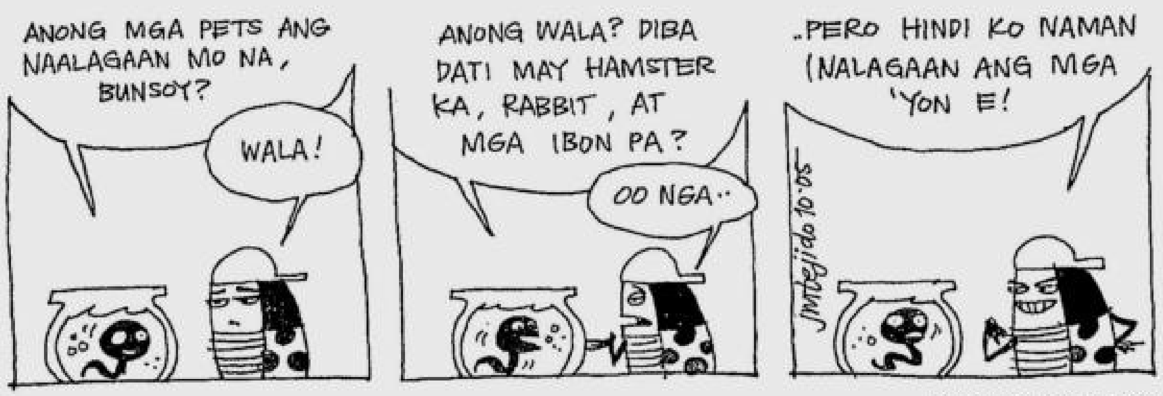
12/1/05

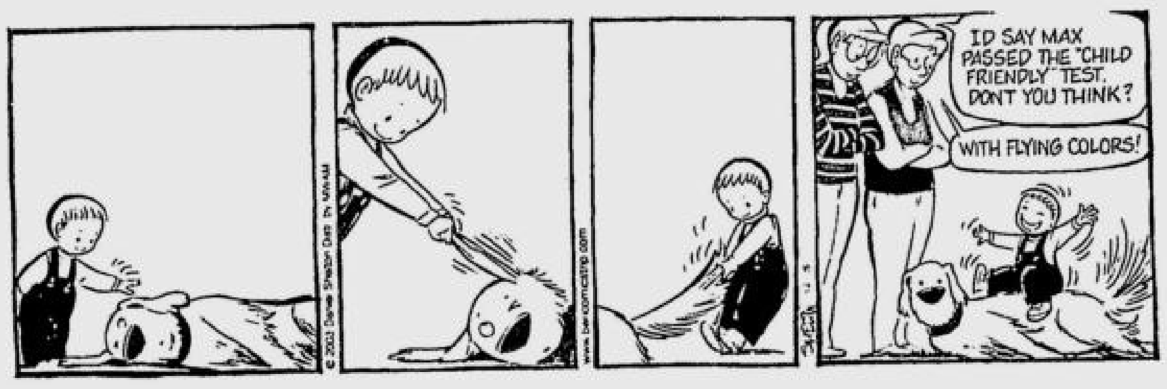
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANONG MGA PETS ANG NAALAGAAN MO NA, BUNSOY?
WALA!
ANONG WALA? DIBA DATI MAY HAMSTER KA, RABBIT, AT MGA IBON PA?
OO NGA..
..PERO HINDI KO NAMAN (NALAGAAN ANG MGA 'YON E!
jmtejido 10.05

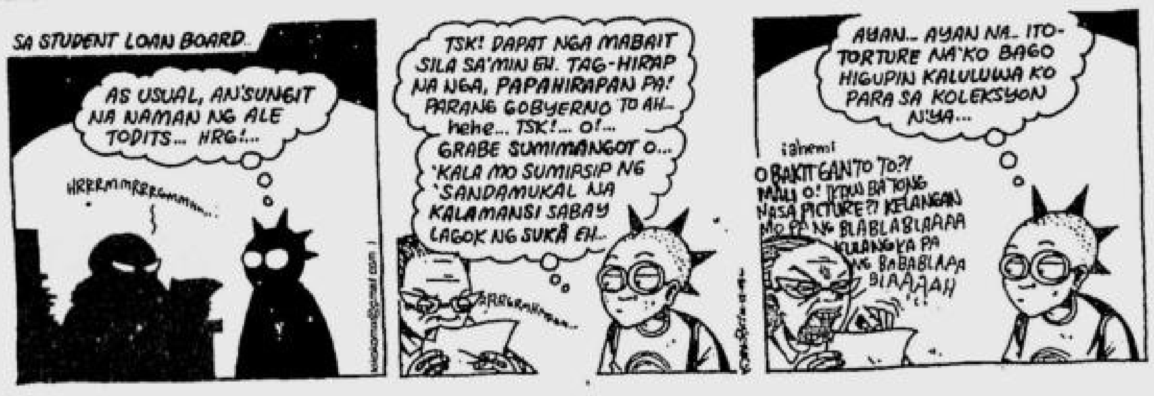
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ID SAY MAX PASSED THE "CHILD FRIENDLY" TEST. DONT YOU THINK?
WITH FLYING COLORS!
www.bencomicstrip.com

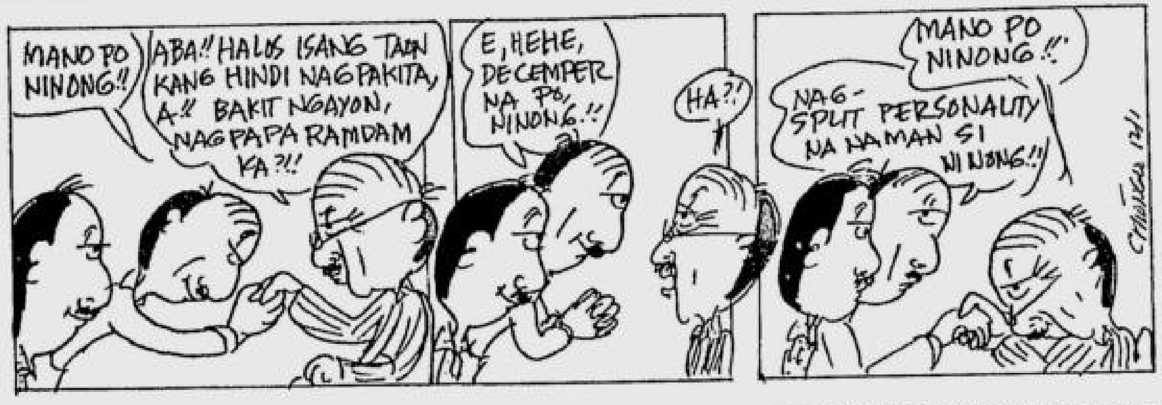
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA STUDENT LOAN BOARD..
AS USUAL, AN'SUNGIT NA NAMAN NG ALE TODITS... HRG!...
HRRRMMRRRGMMM....
TSK! DAPAT NGA MABAIT SILA SA'MIN EH. TAG-HIRAP NA NGA, PAPAHIRAPAN PA! PARANG GOBYERNO 'TO AH.. hehe... TSK!... O!... GRABE SUMIMANGOT O... 'KALA MO SUMIPSIP NG 'SANDAMUKAL NA KALAMANSI SABAY LAGOK NG SUKÂ EH..
ARRGRAHHH....
AYAN.. AYAN NA.. ITO-TORTURE NA'KO BAGO HIGUPIN KALULUWA KO PARA SA KOLEKSYON NIYA...
¡ahem!
O BAKIT GANTO 'TO?! MALI O! IKAW BA 'TONG NASA PICTURE?! KELANGAN MO PA NG BLABLABLAAAA KULANG KA PA NG BABABLAAA BLAAAAH

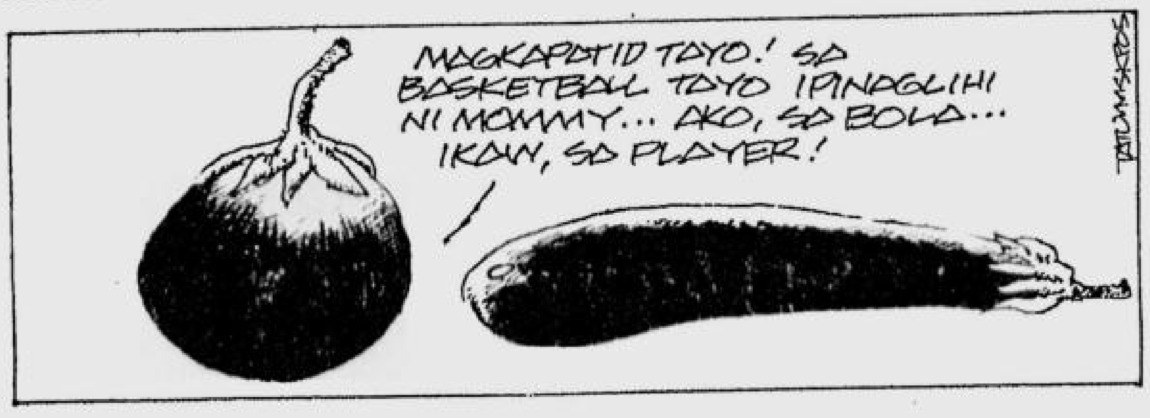
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MANO PO NINONG!!
ABA!! HALOS ISANG TAON KANG HINDI NAGPAKITA, A!! BAKIT NGAYON, NAGPAPA RAMDAM KA?!!
E, HEHE, DECEMPER NA PO, NINONG.!!
HA?!
MANO PO NINONG.!!
NAG-SPLIT PERSONALITY NA NAMAN SI NINONG!!
CHIONGLO 12/1

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAGKAPATID TAYO! SA BASKETBALL TAYO IPINAGLIHI NI MOMMY... AKO, SA BOLA... IKAW, SA PLAYER!

ISANG ENCANTADIA
4 NA BRILYANTE
ISANG KAHON
12 NA MISTER DONUT
BUMILI LANG NG ISANG DOSENANG DONUT PARA MAKAKUHA NG LIBRENG SPECIAL EDITION ENCANTADIA BOX AT PILLOW!
Encantadia
GMA
Mister Donut

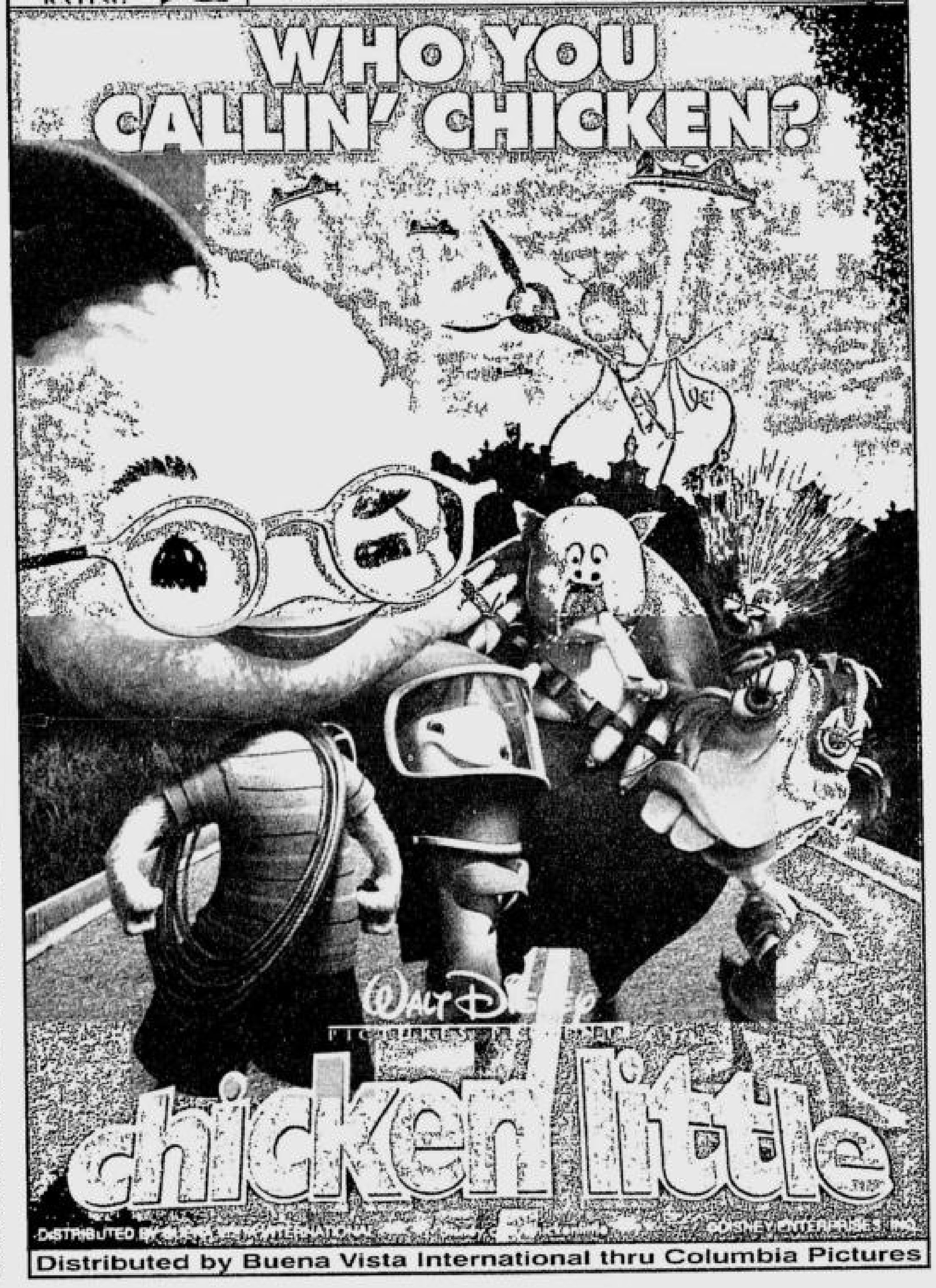
CHEER FACTOR

A fine Maria she'll make

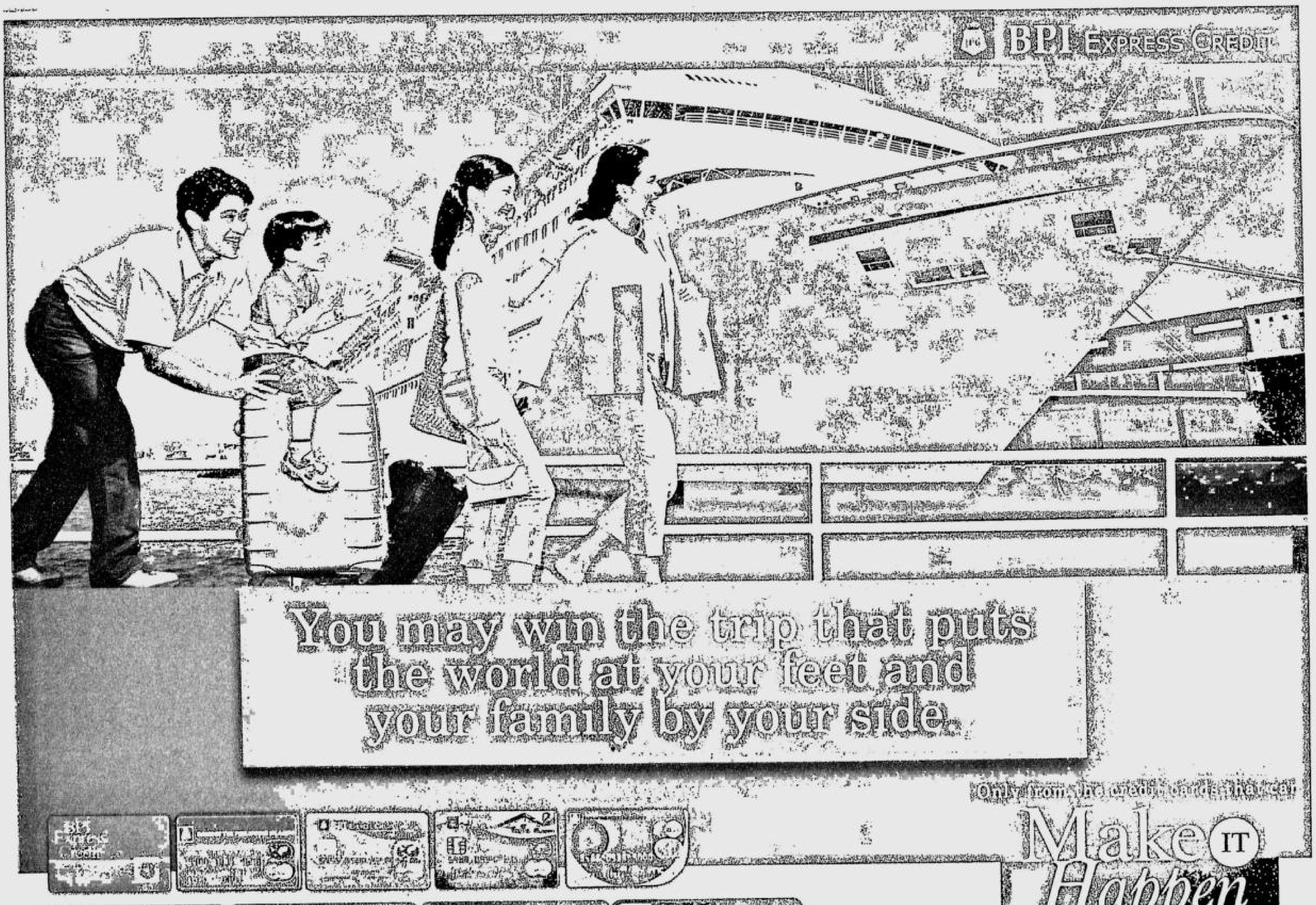
LONDON—JULIE Andrews said Monday Cameron Diaz would be a perfect Maria if "The Sound of Music" is ever remade. At a celebration of the movie's 40th anniversary, Andrews, 70, recalled making the opening scene in which she runs through the hills, singing: "A cameraman was hanging out the side of a helicopter. The down draft nailed me onto the grass. After a few takes, I began to get very angry." *AP*

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED


WHO YOU CALLIN' CHICKEN?
Walt Disney Pictures
chicken little
©Disney Enterprises, Inc.

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures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*Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries.
*Actual unit may vary from photo.

BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6503, Series of 2005

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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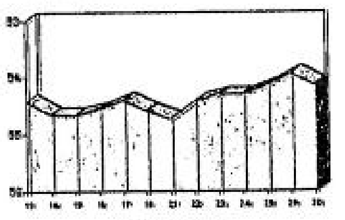
HSBC exec has high hopes for RP economy

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P54.15 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 30, 2005

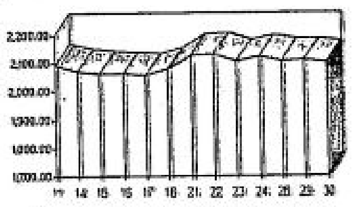
Y119.46 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 30, 2005

GOLD: $494.00-494.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 30, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares fall 0.4 percent

THE MAIN STOCK INDEX YESTERDAY declined, weighed down by losses in blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and SM Prime.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 7.62 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,099.74, after shedding 0.1 percent Tuesday.

But selling was not broad-based, with

SHARES/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Peso sheds some gains, closes at 54.15:$1 /B2

BPO revenues seen hitting $10B by 2010, study says /B3

Japanese firms now more confident in RP /B5

Bank confidence comes in the form of investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CHAIR OF BRITISH BANKING giant HSBC continues to have high hopes on the Philippines, but he tempers this perception by saying that the country may soar to even greater heights if the people will only give themselves a little more credit.

Vincent Cheng, the first Asian to be appointed at the helm of HSBC, was a former legislator and Cabinet advisor in Hong Kong. He said that the Philippine economy has all the ingredients of a success story.

Cheng, who was in town Tuesday for the celebration of HSBC's 130th year of operations in the Philippines, told the INQUIRER that the bank is showing its vote of confidence in the country by bringing in more investments.

"I'm very confident in the Philippines, but I sometimes think you Filipinos give little credit to yourselves," Cheng said. "You criticize yourselves too much."

Cheng said that the economy should already have been a success, considering that the country has "people who are highly educated, and have the confidence of the international community."

"You also have the entrepreneurs, you have the professionals and you also have the capital," he said. "You have huge remittances coming in."

He said an outsider looking in would have a different perception on how things actually work in the country.

"Sometimes only bad news travel," Cheng said, referring to economic setbacks in the country last year. "Good news don't travel as fast."

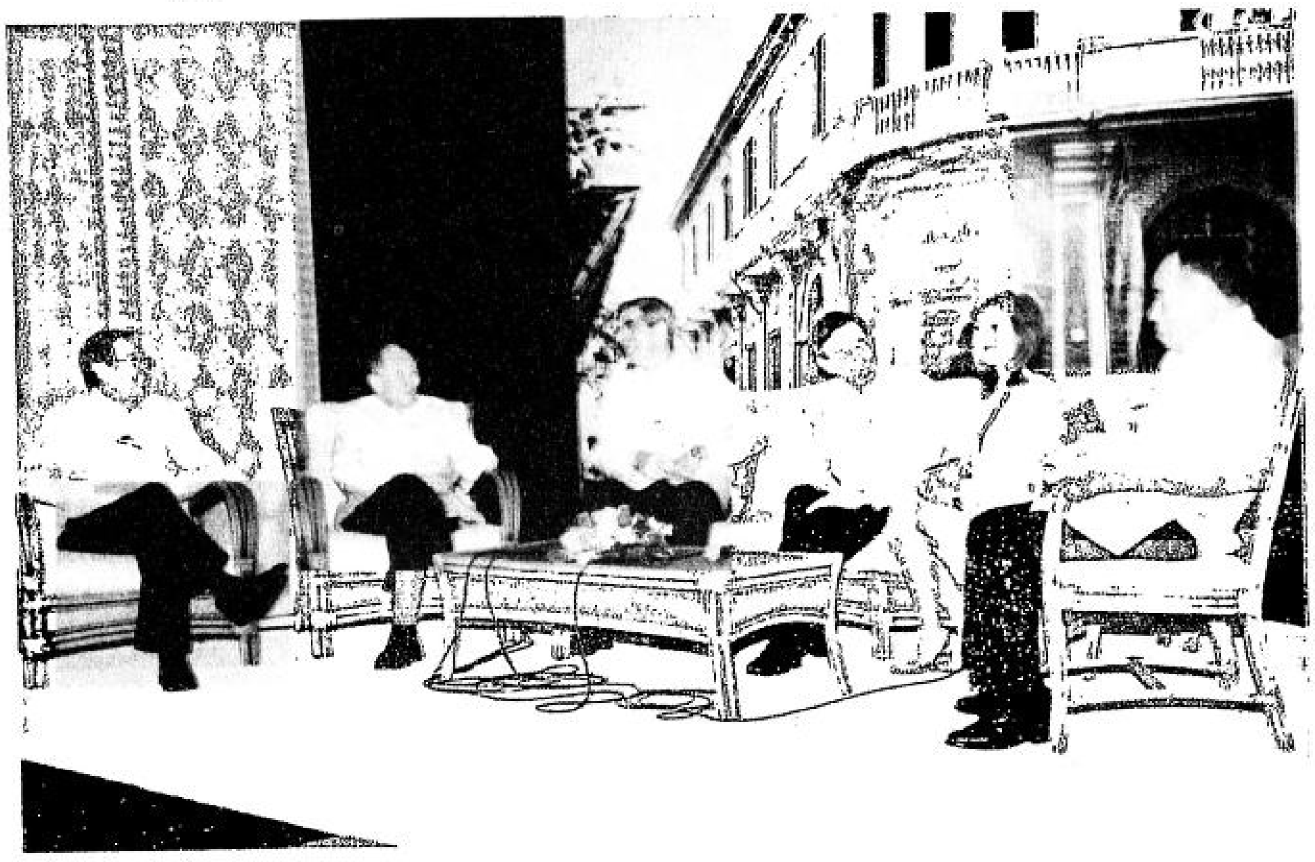
Asked whether he was worried about the political climate in the country, he said: "I think the measures taken by the government had gained the confidence of the international financial community ... interest rates have come down so we see that the government is taking steps to address imbalances in the economy."

The Philippine government is in the midst of fiscal consolidation.

The implementation of a reformed value added tax law is seen to be crucial in the effort to wipe out the deficit within the decade.

"We'd be quite happy to invest more and expand our business here, put up more branches if we're allowed to and hire more

HSBC/ B2



TOP GUNS
Vincent Cheng (4th from left), chairman of HSBC Asia-Pacific, shares a light moment with CNN's Lorraine Hahn (5th from left) and some of the top guns of Philippine business (from left): Tony Tancaktiong of Jollibee, Washington Sycip of SGV & Co, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala of the Ayala Corp., and Henry Sy Sr. of the SM Group of Companies.

BIR aims to collect P2B from tax delinquents

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE aims to collect P2 billion in additional taxes through a newly implemented program that establishes a compromise mechanism for tax delinquents.

Under the Enhanced Voluntary Assessment Program (EVAP), qualified individuals and companies that have unpaid tax liabilities from 2004 and prior years would be free from possible future audit and prosecution by the BIR if they voluntarily pay their back taxes, the amount of which may be adjusted.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said EVAP was in line with the revenue agency's newly adopted policy of promoting voluntary compliance among taxpayers. This he said relieves the BIR of administrative costs entailed in conducting tax audits and filing of court charges.

The EVAP is an expanded version of the No-Audit Program (NAP), which only covered unsettled VAT (value-added tax) liabilities.

EVAP covers all tax types—VAT, income tax, percentage tax, excise tax, documentary stamp tax, withholding tax, estate tax, capital gains tax, etc.

"This is more effective (than the NAP) because it has an expanded coverage, and so more taxpayers would be encouraged to join," Buñag said at the sidelines of "Finance Night" organized by members of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

The BIR decided to adopt EVAP after the bureau failed to generate the expected amount of revenue from its no-audit program. The bureau said the previous program was not able to draw in the desired number of delinquent taxpayers.

The BIR originally expected to attract 100,000 tax delinquents to apply for the NAP. But the actual number of applicants only reached slightly above 2,000.

According to BIR, taxpayers who have already been accepted in NAP need not apply for EVAP to avail of the audit and prosecution exemptions.

Revenue Regulation No. 18-2005,

BIR AIMS/ B3

OFW earnings still main growth driver

THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS SENT back to the Philippines by its huge overseas work force continues to be a major driver for growth in the services sector, a senior official yesterday said.

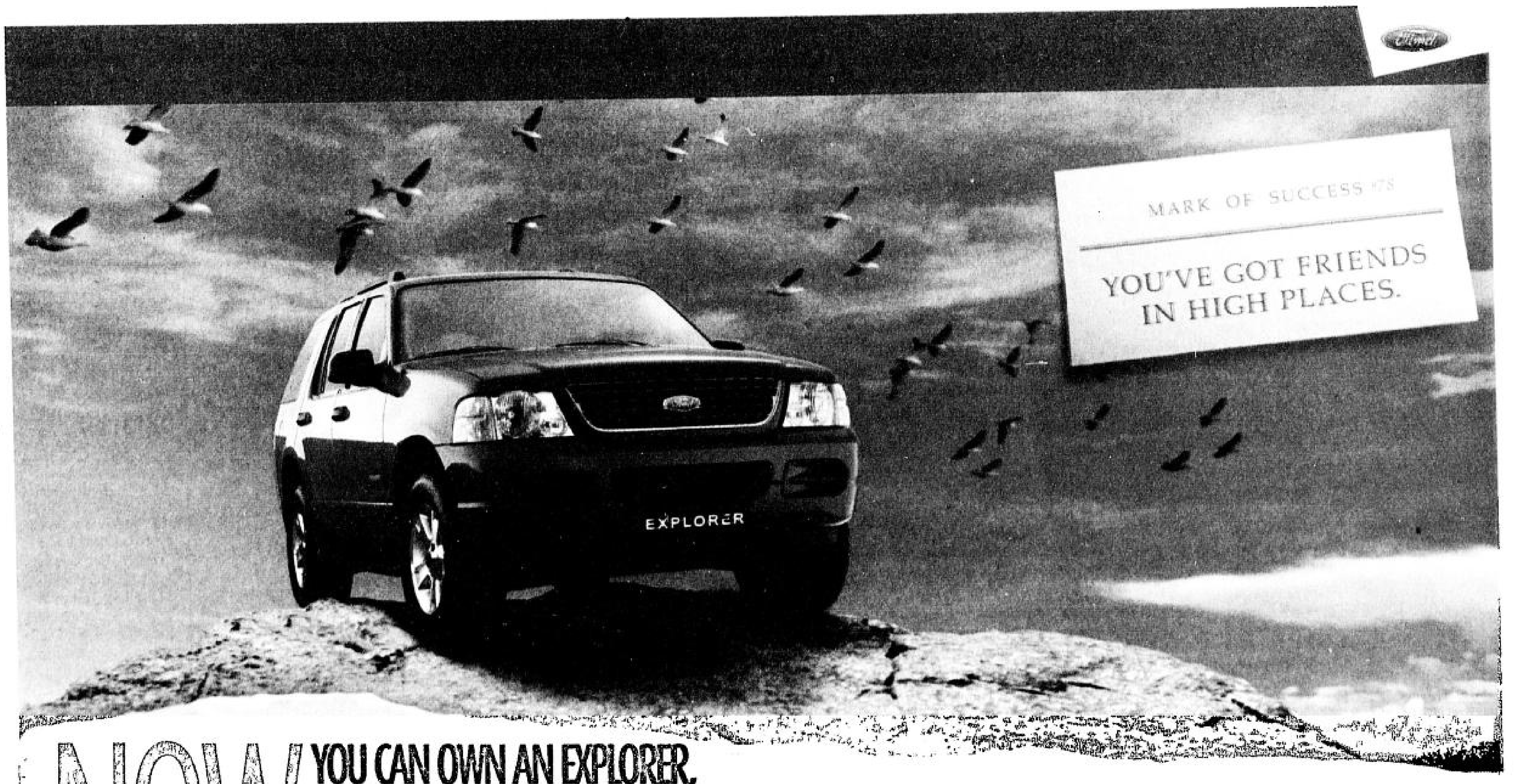
Overseas Filipino workers sent home a record $7.9 billion in the eight months to August, according to Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos.

Such remittances are at an "all-time high and projected to hit $10.3 billion for the whole year," Santos said. "The amount does not include money sent outside the banking system."

He said families of overseas Filipino workers appear to be saving more of the funds sent home and, while this may have accounted for some of the slowdown in the economy in the third quarter, it bodes well for future demand.

Economic growth slowed to 4.1 percent in the three months to

OFW/ B3



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Peso sheds some gains, closes at 54.15:$1

Traders expect exchange rate to remain favorable

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO GAVE UP SOME gains yesterday after breaking into the 53:$1 level last Tuesday, as the currency's strengthening opened buying opportunities for corporations in need of US dollars.

Currency traders, however, said the market was still expecting an uptrend, as the peso hit an intra-day high of 53.89 before closing at 54.15 at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday.

The volume traded reached $476 million.

The intra-day high of 53.89 yesterday was stronger than the 53.91 posted on Tuesday, when the peso surged due to the build-up of remittances from overseas Filipino workers over the long weekend.

Some banks scrambled for US dollars to replace those they previously borrowed for a short sale.

"Short covering pushed the dollar higher," said a trader with a local bank. "With the strong close of the dollar, there's scope for it (dollar) to go up to P54.20 or even P54.30 tomorrow," he said.

Companies in need of dollars for their importation and foreign debt repayment took advantage of the lower than P54 to $1 exchange rate.

There were suspicions that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas might have sold dollars at 54.15 yesterday to tame the exchange rate movement.

One trader said the BSP seemed to be trying to limit the fluctuation to about 20 centavos.

But last Tuesday when the peso shot up to the 53 levels, some traders said the BSP was tempted to purchase some dollars from the open market to boost its reserves and stop the local currency from appreciating "too fast, too soon."

But Tetangco said the peso would likely trade to as high as 53 or even better.

Aside from the OFW factor, he said higher investments due to positive fiscal outlook following the Nov. 1 implementation of the expanded value added tax continued to lift market sentiment.

SM mall opens in China

MALL TYCOON HENRY SY SR. has expanded his operations in China, opening recently his second mall in Fujian province in the southeastern coast of this country.

Sy said this during a roundtable discussion at HSBC's 130th anniversary celebration, where he was honored as among the country's four business greats.

The new 170,000-square meter mall is located in Jin Jiang City in Fujian province.

This is the Sy family's second SM mall in Fujian province. The first, located in Crossroad West in Xiamen, was opened in 2003.

The tycoon's daughter, Teresita Sy, said the SM group was still studying whether the ventures in China would be folded into the publicly-listed SM Prime Holdings.

"The China project is very new, we have to make sure it will bring in income before we fold it in," Sy said.

SM Prime is the country's largest mall operator with 21 supermalls strategically located nationwide with a total gross floor area of 2.7 million square meters.

SM City-San Lazaro opened on July 15 followed by SM Supercenter, SM Sucat–Annex and SM Supercenter Molino.

SM Prime is scheduled to open Mall of Asia, its most ambitious project, in February. The mall sits on a 60-hectare property overlooking Manila Bay. The mall is designed to become not just the Philippines' biggest, but also the most complete and innovative shopping complex.

The 381,000-square-meter complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways. These buildings will feature a wide array of stores and venues for dining, entertainment, leisure, arts and culture. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Nov. 30, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	34	33.5	34	661,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	58.5	58.5	1,567,400
China Banking Corp.	610	615	610	610	1,700
Citystate Savings Bank	17	17	17	17	500
Export and Ind. Bank, Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.61	0.63	830,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	97,200
International Exch. Bank	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	134,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	31	1,060,900
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	23,800
Phil. Savings Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	3,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	9,800
Security Bank Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	273,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3110	3120	3110	3120	450
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2145	2155	2145	2155	1,530
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	75,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.92	840,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2	2.06	2	2.06	17,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	770	760	770	35,080
Ipeople, Inc	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	78,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.048	0.05	5,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	29,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.45	3.35	3.45	3,327,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1740	1745	1735	1735	77,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.58	0.58	1,930,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	179,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.5	15	15.5	63,300
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	24	23.25	23.75	5,666,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	7,327,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	2,704,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	650,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	183,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.68	0.73	0.68	0.71	5,000,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	2,913,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	40	39.5	39.5	214,400
Pancake House Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.65	495,000
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	139,800
San Miguel Corp. B	88.5	88.5	87	88.5	249,600
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	2,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	3,640,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	45,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge. Inc. B	5	5	5	5	35,000
Ayala Corp.	340	355	340	350	188,190
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	170,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	311,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	182,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	1,290,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	14,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	4,986,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	760,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.175	2,300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	14,420,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.4	2,576,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	18,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	120,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	51.5	49.5	51.5	958,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
House of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	170,000
Ionics Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	4,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	142,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	1,830,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	5,430,000
Paxys Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.3	4,195,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	210,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	245	245	240	242	144,010
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	13,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	4,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,220,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.31	3,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	500,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.47	0.47	0.42	0.46	300,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	10,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	5,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	10,297,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	1,449,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	3,800,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.75	14.25	13.75	14.25	716,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	63,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	8,502,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	57,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	168,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,980,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,970,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	7,840,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	2,352,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.24	2.2	2.24	120,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	210,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	290,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	302,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.2	10,893,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.96	1	0.96	0.99	820,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	310,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	73,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	330,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	15,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	705,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	9,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	18,080,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	10,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	44,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	116,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.36	3,015,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.64	1.7	1.62	1.68	7,039,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	28	28	744,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.28	2,010,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	200,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	75,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	110,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4	3.95	3.95	166,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	13,710,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.41	0.36	0.4	1,740,000

CURRENCIES

November 30, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.848248	1.000000	53.9990
Japan	Yen	0.007091	0.008359	0.4514
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458733	1.719700	92.8621
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.109402	0.128974	6.9645
Switzerland	Franc	0.646186	0.761789	41.1358
Canada	Dollar	0.725681	0.855505	46.1964
Singapore	Dollar	0.501181	0.590842	31.9049
Australia	Dollar	0.626707	0.738825	39.8958
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.250593	2.653224	143.2714
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226187	0.266652	14.3989
Brunei	Dollar	0.499705	0.589102	31.8109
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020584	0.024266	1.3103
UAE	Dirham	0.230947	0.272264	14.7020
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.178900	63.6594
Argentina	Peso	0.283695	0.334448	18.0599
Brazil	Real	0.387416	0.456725	24.6627
Denmark	Kroner	0.134098	0.158088	8.5366
India	Rupee	0.018505	0.021815	1.1780
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224452	0.264606	14.2885
Mexico	New Peso	0.080133	0.094469	5.1012
New Zealand	Dollar	0.594720	0.701115	37.8595
Norway	Kroner	0.125795	0.148300	8.0081
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014206	0.016748	0.9044
South Africa	Rand	0.131003	0.154440	8.3396
Korea	Won	0.000817	0.000963	0.0520
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025344	0.029878	1.6134

HSBC exec has high hopes for RP economy

From page B1

people," he said.

One indication of HSBC's optimism, Cheng said, was its choice of the country as its regional business processing hub.

The bank last June opened a five-storey, 85,000-square feet office for group backroom service resourcing in Alabang.

"If we didn't have the confidence on the economy, why did we put our processing center here?," Cheng asked. "The cost could be lower in other countries. The fact that we have built our processing center here and we're considering another one shows our confidence."

"We're very pleased with the efficiency, with the service. It underlines the quality of labor you have in the Philippines. I went there and listened (to the calls), it's amazing!"

Cheng, who has been working for HSBC for 28 years, met with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. and got a reaffirmation that things were going well in the country.

"When I started working in HSBC in 1978, it was more a regional bank trying to expand into the Americas," he said. "It was much smaller then, but of course today, we're a global financial concern with 255,000 people and operations in 277 countries."

"We were quite small in the Philippines then, but now we've grown our business," Cheng added.

Born in Hong Kong in 1948, Cheng grew up in a working class neighborhood. Over the last three decades, he built up a banking career that catapulted him from chief economist to chief financial officer of HSBC subsidiary Hang Seng Bank.

Shares ...

From page B1

gainers outnumbering decliners 46 to 41, while 51 stocks were unchanged.

Astro del Castillo, First Grade Holdings managing director, said fund managers may have taken into account economic data released by the government Tuesday, showing slower-than-expected third-quarter GDP growth of 4.1 percent, compared to 6.2 percent for the same period last year.

Tuesday's data also showed personal consumption expenditure expanding by 4.8 percent on year in the third quarter, slower than the 5.5 percent growth in the same quarter of 2004. *AP*

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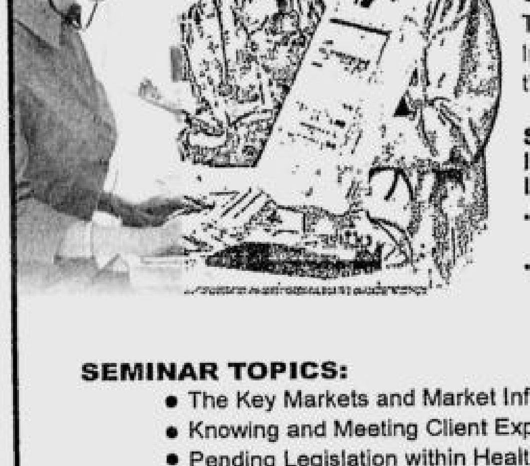

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*HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
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CGU INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE plc
Philippine Branch
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
A. Philippine Business
As of December 31, 2004

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	Ps.	106,231,723.54
Treasury Bills		10,000,000.00
Stocks		3,515,423.46
Other Loans		1,177,487.18
Security Fund		66,013.00
Other Investments		21,320,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		50,310,787.09
Premiums Receivable		82,415,307.00
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies		6,132,581.00
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies		2,975,969.00
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		3,631,691.00
Accrued Investment Income		3,881,393.09
EDP Equipment		248,505.00
Total Admitted Assets	Ps.	291,906,880.36

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	Ps.	39,186,059.00
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		61,534,760.60
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		15,066,144.42
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		46,595,233.00
Premium Reserve Witheld for Reinsurers		13,076,787.00
Taxes Payable		13,523,620.99
Commission Payable		4,864,308.00
Accrued Expenses		8,487,152.00
Unearned Bond Discount		481,748.00
Other Liabilities		24,835.00
Total Liabilities	Ps.	202,840,648.01

TRUSTEED SURPLUS

Statutory Deposit		50,000,000.00
Home Office Inward Remittances		91,691,295.00
Special Surplus Funds- Fluctuation Reserve Stock		354,988.70
Home Office Account		(52,980,051.35)
Total Trusteed Surplus	Ps.	89,066,232.35
Total Liabilities and Trusteed Surplus	Ps.	291,906,880.36

B. Worldwide Business
As of December 31, 2004

Total Assets	£ 20,380,000,000.00
Total Liabilities	7,443,000,000.00
Shareholder's Funds	12,937,000,000.00
Total Liabilities and Shareholder's Fund	£ 20,380,000,000.00

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2004 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

Aureos bullish on Pancake House

By Christine A. Gaylican

VENTURE CAPITAL FIRM AUREOS CAPItal is bullish on the prospects of its investment in food company Pancake House Inc.

Aureos Capital and Planters Development Bank recently bought $4 million worth of common shares in Pancake House.

This was the first investment done by Aureos Capital through its Aureos Southeast Asia Fund (Aseaf) that seeks to invest for small and medium enterprise development in developing countries, Aseaf regional managing partner Liam Cully said in a statement yesterday.

"Our investment in Pancake House affirms our strong belief that the Philippines is an attractive investment destination," Cully said. "Aureos seeks to add value to its investee companies, and this early, we have already received inquiries from our other offices on the feasibility of bringing the Pancake House chain overseas."

Aureos Capital is a joint venture between CDC Group Plc., owned by the British government and the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries, owned by the Norwegian state.

"The consumer sector in the Philippines is particularly resilient and that Pancake House is uniquely positioned to capitalize on the sector's continuing growth," said Samuel O. Occeña Jr., Aureos country manager.

The proceeds of the investment were used by Pancake House to fund the acquisition of a 70-percent equity interest in another strong brand, Teriyaki Boy, according to Pancake House Inc.'s president Martin Lorenzo.

He noted that Pancake House has been consolidating its strengths in the casual dining business in the Philippines over the last two years.

BPO revenues seen hitting $10B by 2010, study says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-enabled service providers expect the multibillion-dollar industry to grow further after cornering markets worth some $1.3 billion in 2004.

Citing a recent study conducted by consultancy firm McKinsey & Co., Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said industry experts expected revenues to increase to some $10 billion by 2010.

To keep the momentum, Favila said the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions was preparing for the biggest e-Services Philippines trade show and conference to be held in February 2006.

The two-day fair was expected to attract some 10,000 local delegates as well as visitors from the United States, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

He said about 100 IT and IT-enabled product suppliers and service provider exhibitors were expected to take part in the ESP 2006.

According to the DTI, there were at least 120 BPO firms that employ 132,000 workers in the country.

"The Philippines is now next only to India as the top global destination for BPO," Favila said.

The Mapping Offshore Markets Update conducted by outsourcing consultancy NeoIT this year indicated that the country's offshore BPO market size reached $800 million in 2004 while its IT outsourcing market was pegged at $330 million," he added.

"Now that we are gaining recognition as an attractive IT and ITES center, it is important that we institutionalize and centralize efforts to promote local IT and IT-enabled companies as the Philippines guns for a bigger share of the outsourcing market," said Citem executive director Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes.

Con Com in Northern Mindanao

(2nd of 3 parts)

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION headed by Mel Senen Sarmiento, together with Commissioners Oscar Rodriguez, Gen. Jose Bello, Liberato Laus, Gov. Pedro Romualdo, Dr. Emmanuel Angeles and Bishop Efraim Tendero, went to the northern part of the island to get the Mindanawons' views on the proposed shift in the form and structure of government, national patrimony and economic reforms.

The consultation forum was attended by representatives from nongovernment organizations, business, politics, sectoral and industry groups from Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Caraga, Butuan, Surigao, Lanao del Sur and Marawi City.

They were personally welcomed by Cagayan de Oro Vice Mayor Michel Tagarda-Spiers who said the presence of the participants in the consultation was an expression of love and hope for the country.

The workshop on the structure of government, which was chaired by Commissioner Pedro P. Romualdo, resulted in a consensus that the country should shift to a federal structure.

They believed that federalism would result in greater autonomy for Mindanao since the states would now have full control of their resources.

Just like in the Davao consultation, the issue about the dictatorial and controlling stance of "Imperial Manila" surfaced.

With self-rule, the states can now decide for themselves what should be done, instead of the national government deciding for them.

It was also noted that the country was composed of people with different values and orientation whose needs can best be served under a federal form of government.

But more significantly, everyone agreed that federalism would bring about sustainable peace and development to the island.

The workshop on the form of government was chaired by Dr. Emmanuel Angeles and facilitated by Commissioner Oscar Rodriguez.

Their discussions included the standoff between Congress and Senate, massive corruption, excessive expenses during elections, the Bangsa Moro problem and the lack of an ideology among political parties in the present presidential system.

The discussions ended with the majority of the participants agreeing to support moves to shift to a parliamentary form of government.

The workshop on National Patrimony and Economic Reforms was handled by Commissioners Laus, Tendero and Sarmiento.

On the issue of exploration, development and utilization of natural resources, the consensus was to lift the citizen requirement for this provision in the Constitution, provided that safety nets shall be enacted by Congress and that the indigenous peoples and the local community share in the profits.

They also strongly advocated that foreigners, including those married to Filipino citizens, should not be allowed to own residential, commercial nor industrial lands, but rather limited to leasing property.

The general sense was to retain the sharing of ownership (60 percent Filipino, 40 percent foreign) in the operation of public utilities for national security considerations.

Mass media operations must still be 100-percent owned by Filipino since media has such a strong influence on our morals, culture and our lives.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council; chair, Joji Ilagan Foundation; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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OFW earnings continue ...

From page B1

September from 6.2 percent in the second quarter, the government said Monday.

The services sector, however, grew 5.1 percent in the three months to September, with the financial sector contributing 1.61 percentage points to that.

The services sector also accounts for 48.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product, and accounted for more than half of the 4.1 GDP growth for the September quarter.

Some eight million Filipinos, out of a population of 84 million, have left the country to seek work abroad, attracted by salaries that far outstrip what they could earn at home. *AFP*

BIR ...

From page B1

already posted on the BIR website, stated the required amounts of compromise tax payments for one to avail himself/herself of the benefits of EVAP.

Those who have overdue income tax liabilities, for instance, should pay P10,000 or an amount 20-percent higher than their previous income tax payment, whichever is higher, to avail themselves of the audit and prosecution exemptions.

The regulation covering EVAP, however, states that individuals and companies that have already been given final assessment notices, along with those already charged under the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program and those who have pending fraud cases with the Department of Justice prior to the application to the EVAP, would be disqualified from the compromise program.

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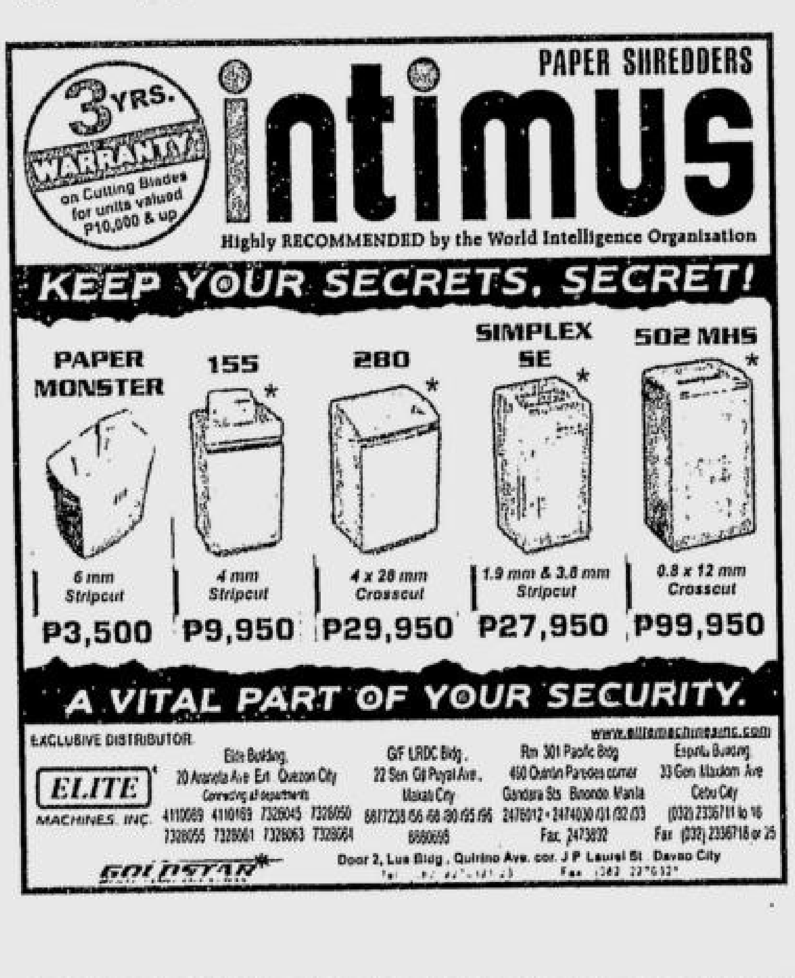
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8:30 – 9:00	Opening Ceremonies Invocation National Anthem Welcome Address Introduction of the Guest Speaker Hon. Avelina A. De La Rea Commissioner, PRC
9:00 – 10:00	"Let's 3G with ZTE" Loren Xiao, Tech Mgr for 3G Technologies, ZTE
10:00 – 11:00	"APC's Infrastruxure: The On-Demand Data Center Architecture" Norberto Avila Jr., Product Manager, APC ISX
11:00 – 12:00	"NERA Corporate Presentation" & "Digital TV Broadcasting" Engr. Nimfa T. Mariano, SVP/Country Manager, NERA, Philippines Joseph M. Rebolledo, Sr Business Segment Mgr for TMN, NERA, Philippines
12:00 – 1:30	Luncheon Seminar with PLDT
1:30 – 2:15	"LCD Technology" Russer Cabrera, Product Manager, EPSON Multimedia Projectors
2:15 – 3:15	"Third Generation Mobile Communications" Mr. Leo Adriano, Product Manager, Ericsson
3:30 – 4:00	BREAK
4:00 – 5:00	Updates on Telecommunications Regulations Engr. Edgardo V. Cabarios President, IECEP Director, Common Carrier Authorization Department, NTC
5:00 – 6:00	Presentation of Nominees for the Election of IECEP Directors Engr. Fernando C. Morales, Chairman on Elections
6:00 – 11:00	Annual General Meeting and IECEP Night Guest Speaker: Hon. Jorge V. Sarmiento Deputy Commissioner, NTC

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Tiger Airways to continue Macau flights

By Clarissa S. Batino

TIGER AIRWAYS PTE LTD, A LOW-cost affiliate of Singapore Airlines and Ryan Air, has received the go-ahead from the Civil Aeronautics Board to continue its Singapore-Macau-Clark flights in December pending a permanent authority.

The aviation board said it would decide on Tiger Airway's petition for a permanent permit before the end of the year.

The budget carrier started its Macau stopover flights on Oct. 30 and its provisional authority lapsed yesterday.

Tiger is now flying 14 times a week from Singapore to Clark from only three flights weekly when it started landing on the former American military base in April, the same time that Malaysia's Air Asia started servicing the Kuala Lumpur-Clark and Kota Kinabalu-Clark routes.

The CAB had also granted a 30-day temporary permit to Thai AirAsia for its Bangkok-Macau-Clark flights.

The Thai unit of Malaysia's AirAsia was supposed to launch its inaugural flights today but it was deferred.

Tiger and Thai AirAsia's routes fall under the fifth freedom right, which is permitted in some of the country's bilateral aviation deals.

Local carriers opposed the Macau stopover of the low-cost airlines but failed to convince the CAB to disapprove the applications.

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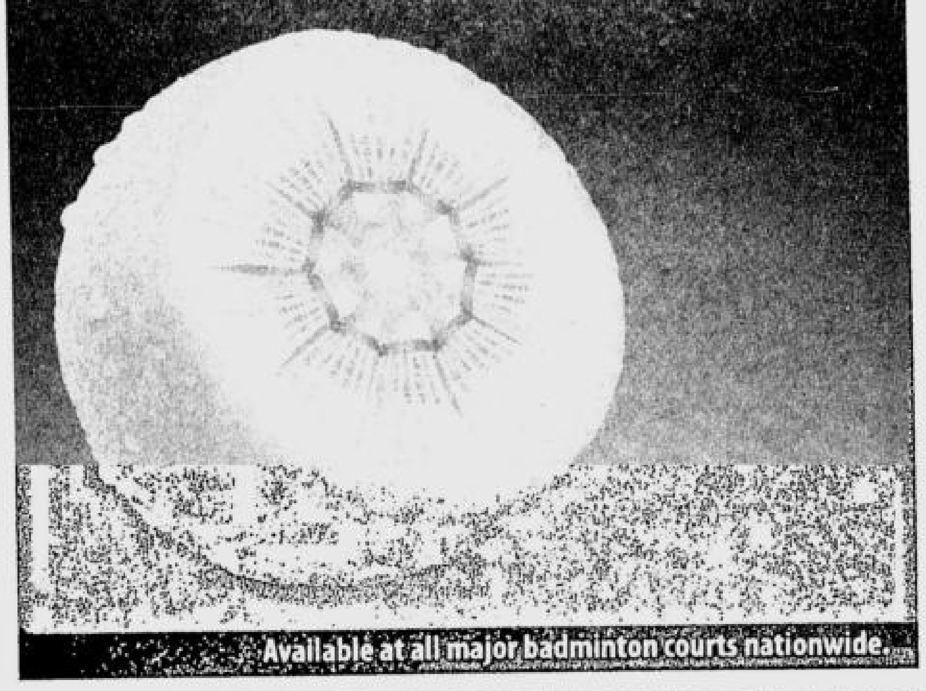

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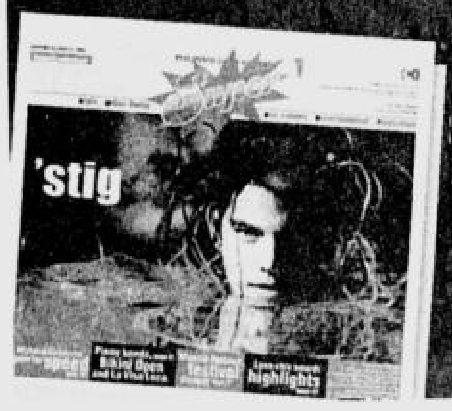

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* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5381, Series of 2005

Power distributors told to secure supply contracts

By Abigail L. Ho

TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM PRICE fluctuations, the Energy Regulatory Commission has ordered distribution utilities to enter into bilateral power supply contracts with power generators.

ERC Resolution No. 21 states that distribution utilities should forge contracts with power suppliers to ensure sufficient electricity supply, in preparation for the commercial implementation of the wholesale electricity spot market (Wesm).

The ERC said this would also serve as one of the safeguards that would ensure competition, and prevent monopoly and market power abuse.

The contracts, though, should be pursuant to the provisions of RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), particularly Sec. 45, which provides safeguards against market power abuse and anti-competitive practices.

Under Sec. 45, distribution utilities can source not more than 50 percent of their supply from affiliated firms.

Also, for the first five years from the establishment of Wesm, power distributors have to source 90 percent of their requirements through bilateral supply contracts and 10 percent from the electricity bourse.

Contracts between electricity distributors and power producers will also help encourage investments in the generation sector.

State-run National Power Corp. and the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor, are not even discussing the possibility of entering into a bilateral supply contract as they have yet to resolve a dispute regarding their expired 10-year supply agreement.

To recall, Napocor and Meralco entered into a 10-year power supply contract in 1994, which stated that the Lopez-led firm should draw 60,092 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity from Napocor, with a minimum 3,600 megawatts (MW) starting 2001.

However, since power demand as projected by Meralco did not fully materialize, energy offtake from the state firm fell below the agreed volume.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has yet to settle this particular dispute, although it recently issued a decision resolving the two firms' row over their transition supply contract. Under this, Meralco was required to nominate on a monthly and daily basis its total system demand.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227, Series of 2005

Japanese firms now more confident in RP

Rating seen to further improve

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JAPANESE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE in the Philippines, although still negative, slightly improved in November, the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) said.

A survey conducted by Jetro showed that the confidence level among Japanese firms operating in the country improved last month to -0.5 rating from -5.7 in October.

Jetro reported that Japanese companies and affiliates doing business here kept a negative diffusion index for the country for the past seven consecutive months.

Still, the agency said "the absolute values of the negative figures for the Philippines have been decreasing."

The survey aims to provide up-to-date information on business conditions in Asian economies to help companies develop more effective business strategies.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes in their business outlook for the current month and the next two or three months. The answers are expressed as DI, which is the difference between the ratio of positive and negative responses.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivables with those in the same period a year earlier.

The Philippines rated negative in the 10 months from June 2001 when Jetro started the monthly poll. The country's record bottomed at -40.9 in December 2001 and peaked at 22.9 in September 2004.

In the latest survey, Jetro said the country's ratings reflected the overall sentiment for the five original members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which "improved slightly" with a rise of 1.2 points.

Business sentiments rose in Singapore and Malaysia and the Philippines; while those on Indonesia and Thailand declined.

Jetro said the outlook DIs for two to three months ahead declined in all five countries compared to November last year.

The outlook for the Philippines showed that business sentiment would further improve to a rating of -3.

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RE-CURRENT UTI
ALMORANAS, ERECTION PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR
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4373898

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All arnd Maid Yaya 4399290

Good Maid Ya' A/A Cook 7574339

Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947

LOW RATE Maid 4337898

MARSIFOR AGENCY 4373040

NEED MAIDS 4328194

Trained Maids w/NBI 4395725

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09163416775

Lipat 6817623 ★ 6817136

OPEN&CLOSE VANS TEL#731-8549

•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★
LA315-1119m² Comml nr Ateneo
P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

120Sqm 4BR 2TB w/Grge
5M neg 3650204 3652080

LAS PINAS

P1.1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

MAKATI

2.5M Brgy Rizal 09208309744

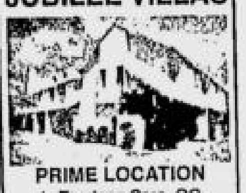
3.5M Cardona St 09208309744

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS



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1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br
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10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

INTRAMUROS 09153709774

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br3tb Jacuzi 3.2M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

3M Coml 54m² 09229226408

Nr Visayas Av Gloria IV Subd
5BR 5T&B 4554123/4566854

RIZAL

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Antipolo 6391573 • 5272338

CAVITE

BACOOR 535K CP-092726690

LAGUNA

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CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

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09178072053 / 6714421

QUEZON CITY

GILMORE CONDO 09172580899

QC Condo 560T 0916-5412000

LOT

PASIG

VALLE VERDE 5 MORN'G SUN
400m² @ P39T/m² 6337601-03

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320; Fax No. 840-1575
PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors, with successful experience as primary contractor in the execution of at least three (3) piping insulation and cladding projects within the last ten (10) years, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

INSULATION AND CLADDING REFURBISHMENT WORKS IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE LEYTE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD – FLUID COLLECTION AND REINJECTION SYSTEM (LGPF-FCRS) EDC 05-188

The Approved Budget is **PhP 8,057,310.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 90 calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Francis T. Tolibas local 5179) starting **December 1, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: One Thousand (PhP 1,000.00).**

Site inspection is on **December 8, 2005** at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field in Ormoc, Leyte. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **December 9, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Ormoc Leyte.

The application for eligibility, letter of intent and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of January 3, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – December 1 & 8, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

2.5M PROJ.8 09208309744

GloriaIV Subd nr Visayas Ave
444m² 455-4123/456-6854

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot
nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

OFFICE SPACE

Pioneer(Globe) Mandaluyong 89-206m² Rent/Sale 09192189817

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Res'l Farm Lot 3.2hac Naic
Cavite 4554123/4566854

FACTORY/WHSE

Manufacturing Factory
Del Monte QC 0917-5369634

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Ocean Tower, Rxs Blvd 3BR&TB, Pkg,
Facing Bay 55K; 09178587929

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048/49

VARIED AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 1-2-3 BRS
P25-90T/mo 889-6475;4796

APARTMENT

PASAY

2stry Conc. 2&3bdr nr DFA
5510310 CP:0910-9204885

ROOM & BOARD

El Grande Inn 8257524
BF Pque P200! Tel8275345

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr
7-11 Dimasalang, Manila
7118679, 7836781(24hrs)

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
38m² & 185m² 8903461 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSIES .DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

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1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

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09198653109

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GARAGE SALE
Dec. 1 to 15 Except Sundays
NIKKO, Zojirushi (Japan) & Maitre's (Brazil) Brands
All Imported Items
Electrical Appliances, Airpots, Vacuum Bottles, Aladdin Thermos & Fillers, Water Jugs, Coolers, Ice Pails, Cutlery Sets & Holders, Kitchen Tools, BBQ Grillers, Rice Boxes, Lunch Jars, Plasticwares, Luggage Carts, Wall Clocks, Folding Tables, Chair & Stools, Garden Tables, Dream Bed, High Chair, Children Toys & Clothes, Car Accessories & Many More at give-away Prices
1375 JMS Bldg. P. Ocampo Sr. St.,
(former Vito Cruz Ext.)
Makati City Tel. 8993456 to 59

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Lourdes V. Enriquez was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc. # 407, Page #83, Book #09, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Hilarion Omadto of Mandaluyong City
(PDI-Dec. 1, 8 & 15, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

Garments, P20 Up 412-8673

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT/CALL 09205398509 CHRISTINE

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

NEED SIDELINE! Set your Hrs! P/F up tp 20K/mo. 376-2642 & 44

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Homecare Nurse Single 5333495

LICENSED LADY DENTIST
preferably UE graduate
Call JAMES 09178233345

MALE/FEMALE

HIRING! CALL CENTER AGENTS
FAX -RESUME AT 879-8272

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods & Services)

1. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-Bidding

	Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1.	Other Supplies	Loyalty ring for OSND Personnel	Php 485,100.00
2.	Construction Supplies	Assorted Construction Supplies for OSND	335,547.19
3.	Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted Vehicle Spare Parts for OSND	756,706.87
4.	Aircon Supplies	Assorted Aircon Supplies for OSND	259,533.00
5.	Building & Other Structure Maintenance	Repair/Maintenance of OSND Step-up Transformer for Deepwell	150,000.00
6.	Repair Equipment	Repair of Video Reversing Screen	75,000.00
		TOTAL	Php 2,061,887.06

B. General Services for CY-2006

	Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1.	Pest Control	Pest Control services for DND Bldg. & Annexes	Php 693,693.00
2.	Janitorial Services	Janitorial services for DND Bldg. & Annexes	4,300,000.00
3.	Purified Drinking Water	Delivery of Purified Drinking Water for DND employees	751,322.88
4.	Subscription Expenses	Subscription of foreign magazines and local newspapers for OSND offices	1,177,000.00
5.	Aircon Maintenance	General Cleaning of Airconditioners	1,197,916.50
6.	Photocopying Services	Photocopying services for OSND offices	4,000,000.00
		TOTAL	Php 12,119,932.38

II The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-bidding B. General Services for Cy-2006	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg., DND	24 Nov – 02 Dec 2005 29 Nov – 18 Dec 2005	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-bidding B. General Services for CY-2006	OAS Annex Bldg.	– None – 05 December 2005	9:00 AM – 12:00 NN
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-bidding B. General Services for CY-2006	OAS Annex Bldg.	06 December 2005 19 December 2005	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. 911-8118:

PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A. Various Supplies/Materials	
1. Other Supplies	Php 500.00
2. Construction Supplies	300.00
3. Vehicle Spare Parts	800.00
4. Aircon Supplies	200.00
5. Building & Other Structure Maintenance	100.00
6. Repair of Equipment	100.00
B. Services	
1. Pest Control	Php 700.00
2. Janitorial Services	4,300.00
3. Purified Dringking Water	800.00
4. Subscription Expenses	1,200.00
5. Aircon Maintenance	1,200.00
6. Photocopying Services	4,000.00

Bidders who have secured the bidding documents in the previous bidding in any of the projects under "A" may no longer secure new bidding documents but they are encouraged to get updates from the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat.

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VIII. The Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Services website at: www.procurementservice.org , and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI – Nov. 24 & Dec. 1, 2005)

Pag-IBIG Fund
The Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, City of Makati

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DESIGN CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PAG-IBIG FUND LUCENA, NAGA AND PAMPANGA BRANCHES

The Pag-IBIG Fund intends to apply the sum of P3,885,860.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Design Consultancy Services for the Pag-IBIG Fund Lucena, Naga and Pampanga Branches. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Design Consultancy Services for the Pag-IBIG Fund Lucena, Naga and Pampanga Branches. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of December 21, 2005 at Rm. 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. The BAC-CS Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payments of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the Pag-IBIG Fund Cashier. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: 2:00 p.m. of January 6, 2006 at Rm. 602, Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Only those that are shortlisted will be entitled to submit bids.

The BAC-CS shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of five (5) consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

Experience and Capability of Firm	-	40%
Qualification of Personnel	-	40%
Current Workload relative to Capacity	-	20%
		100%

LOIs must be delivered by hand or through mail at the above stated address on or before 5:00 p.m. of December 21, 2005.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The Pag-IBIG Fund shall evaluate bids using the Quality Based Evaluation/Selection (QBE) procedure The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference (for eligibility) at 2:00 p.m. of December 19, 2005 at the following address: Room 602, 6/F Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

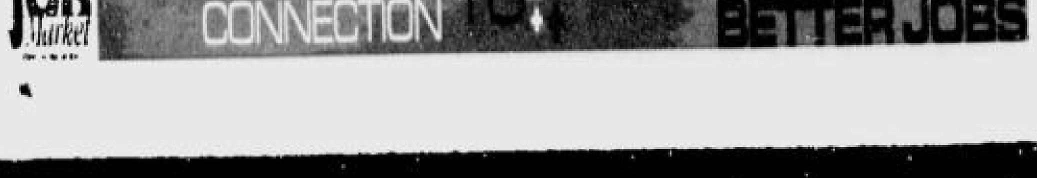
Interested consultants may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund at this address: Rm. 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-CS Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 2:00 p.m. of January 31, 2006.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **MS. TESSIE M. GONZALES**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee-Consulting Services

(PDI--Dec. 1 & 7, 2005)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(632) 893 8374 to 77
BULACAN

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

So lovingly remembered
So dearly missed

Our Beloved

Karlos Moses Salvacion

On the day of the 1st Death Anniversary
of his Birth to Eternal Life
December 01, 2004

His loving father **Bert**, mother **Mary**, brothers **KJ** and **Karlo**, and grandmothers, **Lola Miling** and **Lola Kikay** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be celebrated at:

1.	**Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene,** St. John the Baptist Parish, Quiapo	6:00 AM & 7:00 AM
2.	**Sta. Cruz Parish**, Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:30 AM & 7:30 AM
3.	**Manila Cathedral**, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 AM
4.	**San Agustin Church**, Intramuros, Manila	6:30 AM
5.	**National Shrine & Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz**, Binondo, Manila	6:00 AM
6.	**San Antonio de Padua**, Masbate City	6:00 AM
7.	**Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish**, Ermita, Manila	6:30 AM
8.	**Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat**, Mendiola, Manila	6:30 AM
9.	**St. Joseph Parish**, Juan Luna, Tondo, Manila	9:30 AM
10.	**St. Pangratius Parish**, La Loma, Kalookan	6:00 AM

Ma. Rosario "Charing" Lina Catipon

Of Candelaria, Quezon and Lipa City, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband
Godofredo Guevara Catipon
at the age of 84 on November 28, 2005.

Her bereaved children **Bessie, Yollie & Manny**, and **Ferdie**
Siblings **Uping & Cere** (†), **Miling** (†) & **Betty, Lily, Pert & Lily, Angel & Joel, Volet & Keith.**

Grandchildren: **Hubert & Clei, Xavier & Apet, Roderick & Shelly, Jenny & Jong, Allan & Pia, Didith & Rommel, Joan & Alvin, Candy & Joel, Mike,** and **Cathy**
and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at
Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on December 3, 2005
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
after the 8:30 am Mass at Loyola Chapel, Guadalupe.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

In Loving Remembrance
On the First Death Anniversary of

Johnson Robert L. Go, Sr.

(October 11, 1934 – December 1, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish, *Greenmeadows, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, *Antipolo City*	6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, *Greenhills West, San Juan*	6:00 p.m.
Redemptorist Shrine, *Baclaran, Pasay City*	6:45 a.m.
Santo Domingo Church, *Quezon Boulevard, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills East, San Juan*	6:15 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, *EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Q.C.*	5:30 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, *Magallanes, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Bel Air, Makati City*	6:30 p.m.
St. Francis Parish Church, *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, *Arnaiz Street, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.

The **JRL Go Children's Memorial Library** extends its gratitude to the various donors who have so generously contributed funds, books and other reading materials, and most of all, provided their encouragement and moral support, towards the setting up of children's libraries in Johnson's honor. Thank you for sharing in our tribute to him whose love, wisdom, and humility continue to inspire us, and whose memory we shall always hold dear.

In Memoriam

Bienvenida Siongco-David

November 17, 1922 – December 1, 2000

We take time on this day, the 1st of December, 2005, to remember **Bienvenida Siongco-David** and to thank God for the great mother she was to us, her thirteen children:
Randy, Nestor, Leila, Isaac, Dante, Raquel, Peter, Claire, Lilia, Ambo, Agnes, Marivic & Goli.

The knowledge that we carry the genes of a great woman like her – a person who was practical, strong-willed, prayerful, persevering, courageous, undaunted even in times of adversity, and endowed with an incredibly high threshold of pain – gives us assurance that we too will somehow overcome our own lives' trials and pains.

She survived the Second World War.
She gave birth to seven boys and six girls at home, and breast-fed each one of them.
She was the eldest of the nine children of the late **Victoriano Siongco** of Guagua, & **Maria Sanchez** of Macabebe, Pampanga.
She was the wife of the late **Fiscal Pedro S. David** of Betis, Guagua, Pampanga.
She was the *Lola* of thirty one grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Ramon R. Enriquez

peacefully joined his Creator on November 26, 2005 at the age of 59.

His loving wife **Evelyn**, daughter **Melissa**, sisters **Sonia E. Servinio & Charrie E. Pacheco**, brother **Milo R. Enriquez**, brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeral Chapel of the St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati.

Funeral Mass will take place on Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m. at the Magallanes Chapel. Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
CLASSIFIEDS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES FOR NFA ALBAY

The National Food Authority, Regional Office, Legazpi City invites all qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provisions of freight services of NFA local and imported grains from NFA Albay to NFA Masbate and Catanduanes for the year 2006, as follows:

Lot	Route	Estimated Volume For shipment (In bags of 50 kg)	Estimated Budget for the Contract to be Bid based on General Operating Fund
	Tabaco/Legazpi Port to:		
I	Virac Port, Virac Ctdnes.	347,200	Php 6,249,600.00
II	Mbt. Port, Mbt City	472,453	12,756,231.00
	TOTAL	819,653	Php 19,005,831.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
1. Issuance of eligibility requirements & Bidding documents	Nov. 30, 2005 to Dec. 15, 2005	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 16, 2005	10:00 AM
3. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid Proposal	Dec. 29, 2005	9:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	Dec. 29, 2005	9:30 AM

The venue of pre-bid and bidding conferences will be at the 2nd Floor of NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferrable/non-refundable registration fee in the amount of P4,000.00.

To provide ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids, prospective bidders may secure the needed eligibility requirements and other related documents at the time the invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid is first advertised.

For further inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers: (052) 480-7933/480-7015/480-7085/820-008 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to be bid whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty (50%) percent of the ABC.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - December 1 & 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA ALBAY

The National Food Authority, Regional Office, Legazpi City invites all qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provisions of integrated cargo handling services equivalent to more or less 120,000 MT and 6,000 MT NFA local and imported grains in Tabaco City and Legazpi City for the year 2006, respectively The estimated budget for the contract to be bid is P25,369,677.00 for Tabaco City and P1,450,682.90 for Legazpi City. Integrated cargo handling services required by NFA Albay includes arrastre, stevedoring, trucking (from and to the port to NFA utilized warehouses within the concerned areas) and all related grains handling services in the NFA receiving/source warehouses.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
1. Issuance of eligibility requirements and other bid documents	Nov. 30, 2005 to Dec. 15, 2005	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 15, 2005	10:00 AM
3. Deadline for Submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid Proposal	Dec. 28, 2005	9:30 AM
4. Opening of Bids	Dec. 28, 2005	10:00 AM

The venue for the pre-bidding conference and submission and opening of bids shall be at the Conference Room, NFA Regional Office, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

Funding Source will be the Corporate Operating Budget.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferrable/non-refundable registration fee in the amount of P7,000.00 and P4,000.00 for Tabaco City area and Legazpi City area, respectively.

For further inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers: (052) 480-7933/480-7015/480-7085/820-008 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to be bid whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty (50%) percent of the ABC.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - December 1 & 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.) Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for 2006 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Security Services	**P7,182,180.00** For 48 Guards	December 7, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 21, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P5,000.00
Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	**P6,499,500.00** At P30.00 per card (For a minimum of 216,650 pieces)	December 7, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 21, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P5,000.00
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	**P502,500.00** At P3.35 per sheet Of Bookpaper (For a minimum of 150,500 sheets	December 8, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 22, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets	**P5,046,775.00** At P3.35 per sheet of OCR paper (For a minimum of 1,506,500 sheets)	December 8, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 22, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor; Main Bldg.	P5,00000

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on November 24, 2005. Start of the Issuance of Certification of Registration to bidders shall be on December 7, 2005.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on November 30, 2005 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's need.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **LEONOR T. ROSERO**
Chairperson

(PDI–Nov 24 & Dec 1, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance
Tel. No.: (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-12D

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	PSMD-II-05-135	SUBSTATION DATA ACQUISITION MONITORING/COMMUNICATION PROCESSOR	2 PCS	3,600,000.00
A2	PSMD-II-05-157	MULTI-FUNCTION PRIMARY TEST SYSTEM	1 SET	7,500,000.00
A3	PSMD-II-05-152	PORTABLE POWER QUALITY ANALYZER	1 SET	2,500,000.00
A4	PSMDII-05-136	MULTI-PRODUCT CALIBRATION SYSTEM	1 SET	7,800,000.00
A5	3PSMDS-05-102	BUS BAR PROTECTION RELAY	6 SETS	8,520,000.00
A6	3PSMDS-05-103	SATELLITE SYNCHRONIZED CLOCK	4 SETS	1,960,000.00
A7	3PSMDS-05-105	SUBSTATION MAINTENANCE AND COMMISSIONING TEST EQUIPMENT	1 SET	5,000,000.00
A8	3PSMDS-05-108	OFFLINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	1 SET	3,280,000.00
A9	CAV-05-388	DIVERTER SWITCH	1 SET	6,985,000.00
A10	CAV-05-453	TRANSFORMER MONITORING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (TMCS)	2 SETS	9,800,000.00
A11	3LAG-05-11913	TRANSFORMER MONITORING & CONTROL SYSTEM (TMCS)	2 SETS	9,800,000.00
A12	3LAG-05-11731	PORTABLE POWER QUALITY AND DISTURBANCE ANALYZER INSTRUMENT	1 SET	4,600,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Date/Time (A1-A12)
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 25 - Dec. 09, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 30, 2005 9:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005 10:00 AM
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room	December 12, 2005 10:00 AM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **R. B. VERGARA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Dec. 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers registered by the G-EPS and accredited supplier of General Santos City for Eligibility and to Bid for the following projects/proposals.

BID NUMBER	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
5CB-GSC-160	VARIOUS MEDICAL SUPPLIES	P5,411,759.90 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-161	VARIOUS DRUGS AND MEDICINES	P6,191,975.01 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-162	VARIOUS VEHICLES	P8,055,000.00 (2005 Annual Budget)

Pre-bidding Conference - December 2, 2005, 2:00 PM, BAC Office
Dropping of Bids - December 14, 2005, 1:30 PM, BAC Office
Opening of Bids - December 14, 2005, 2:00 PM, City Mayor's Conference Room

Interested Bidders may secure the bid documents upon payment from the BAC Secretariat, BAC Office, 2nd flr., City Hall Bldg., GSC (tel nos. 083-301-3834 and 083-301-0553). Details/specifications of above items were posted @ www.procurementservice.org and www.gensantos.gov.ph

All particulars relative to Eligibility Requirements, Receipt and Opening of Bids, Evaluation, Post Qualification and Award shall be governed by R.A 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in situations set forth in Section 41 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184

(Sgd.) **NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 24 & Dec. 1, 2005)

PAKIKIPAGKAPWA TAO sa PAGNENEGOSYO

A business endorsed by local & national gov't officials.
If you are already earning **P50,000/month.**

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!

Those who responded to this AD are now earning more than

P100,000 PER MONTH

Holidays are coming – YOU NEED MONEY!

WE WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO TURN YOUR **P7,000** TO A **MULTI-MILLION PESO BUSINESS** distributing **Snoopy, Giordano, Timex, Barbie** and **SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS (Coke, Sprite, Purefoods, Magnolia, Gran Matador, etc.)**

WE DARE YOU TO SEE US!

ATTEND OUR FREE ORIENTATION

DECEMBER 3, 2005, SATURDAY
10:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 4:00 PM; 6:00 PM
COME IN BUSINESS ATTIRE!

Tell your friends about this hottest business in town.

For Provincial inquiries, e-mail
lg_mariano@yahoo.com
Contact person: Jhoy and Ricky
09182124052 / 09196380782

GF Octagon Bldg., Ortigas Center
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B
#89 PSDC Bldg., P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RE-BID OF COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS
ITB# PRO4B-05-003

The *PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B (PRO IV-B)* invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Computers and Printers.

LOT NO.	PARTICULARS	UNITS	SPECIFICATIONS	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Desktop Computers	33	Ref. No. PRO4B-05001 (23 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-05002 (8 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-05003 (2 units)	1,900,000.00
2	Laserjet Printer	5	Ref. No. PRO4B-05004	100,000.00
3	Printer Dot Matrix	6	Ref. No. PRO4B-05005	180,000.00

Budget for the subject contracts for bid shall be sourced from the internal corporate operating budget (COB CY2005) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Bidding documents can be secured from the **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT, ADMIN. DEPT, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B, #89 PSDC Bldg., P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City**, during regular office hours from Nov. 25, 2005 to Dec. 14, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **two thousand one hundred eighty pesos (Php 2,180.00)**. A Pre-bid Conference will be held on Dec. 2, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on Dec. 15, 2005 on or before 11:00 a.m. to the BAC Secretariat at the Admin. Dept. Opening of bids will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.**

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	One percent (1%) per lot
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%) per lot

For more information, contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone no. **723-8822 local 201 & 204.**

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **CIRILO C. BALMACEDA**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Nov. 25 & Dec. 1, 2005)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. # 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Davao City Water District*, with the *Approved Budget for 2005* intends to apply the sum of *Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P 213,150.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and delivery of *DCWD T-Shirts*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for:

   1 Lot / Package – Supply and delivery of 609 pcs. DCWD T-Shirts — ABC: Php 213, 150.00

   Delivery of the GOODS is required by *January 30, 2006*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount of *P 1,500.00/package*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***December 15, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** at ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***December 27, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash or Manager's check* and in the amount of ***Php 2,131.50***. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***December 27, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** at ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City***. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. 224-5392
Website www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA S. MARIMON**
BAC-A Chairperson

(PDI – December 1 & 8, 2005)

AWARDED shoppers' choice No.1

Congratulations!

C.Y. Gabriel Bleaching Beauty Soaps
No.1 Bleaching Soap (National)

for having been chosen as
2005 National Shoppers' Choice
Annual Awardee

national shoppers' choice 2005

Quezon dentists set 3rd quarter seminar

THE QUEZON PROVINCIAL DENTAL Chapter (QPDC) composed of six dental circles in the province – St. Ferdinand, St. Didacus, St. Claire, St. Isidore, St. Mark, and San Lorenzo, in cooperation with Unilab – will hold its 3rd Quarter Scientific Seminar on Dec. 4 at the Queen Margaret Hotel in Lucena City. Expected to draw more than 250 dental health practitioners from Quezon, the seminar will feature talks by Dr. Leo Gerald de Castro on "Implantology," and Dr. Joven Javier on developments and best practices in "Oral Surgery." QPDC president Dr. Gerardo L. Merle said the chapter's upcoming projects for the year 2006 which are geared towards conducting more community outreach programs like free dental services to the indigent Quezon residents especially during the Oral Health Care Month of February will also be discussed during the seminar. He added that one of the pioneering efforts of the QPDC was a Memorandum of Agreement with the Quezon Governor Willie Enverga providing free dentures to all senior citizens of the province 60 years of age and above.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

A TRIPLE treat of good food, fast service and radical ideas /C2

LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◉ TUESDAY FITNESS ◉ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◉ THURSDAY FOOD ◉ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

The taste of the sea, the color of money

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I HAVE RECENTLY TRIED Lorenzo's Date Bars. They're delightfully delicious! You must call 8527798.

Back to your fish questions... Again, thanks Chingling for all the help!

What are seabass, monkfish and cobbler? Are they local fish?

MINNIE

No, they aren't actually. Chilean seabass—neither is it a bass nor from Chile. This is the Patagonian toothfish caught in the Antarctic (thus the oiliness) and called Chilean seabass because it was first landed and discovered in Chile.

Monkfish is big-headed ugly fish sold more for its tail meat. Called the poor man's lobster, it has a solid lobster-like texture and very white meat. Cream dory and White River cobbler are from the Pangasius/catfish family grown in freshwater ponds in Vietnam. Product is processed only from live raw material and bled prior to filleting. If bought from unreliable suppliers, taste could be muddy.

What about *tulingan*? What's the English name for it? Thanks for the very informative list of Tagalog vs English names!

PANNA IDOWU

Skip jack tuna is *tulingan*. The bigger *tulingan* is *tambacol*.

What is Oysters Rockefeller? Can I have oyster recipes, please?

MARTIN

The dish was invented by Antoine Alciatore of the world-famous Antoine's Restaurant at the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was said it originally consisted of some 18 ingredients, using watercress instead of spinach and escargot. Among the other dishes that Antoine's made famous were Sardou, named after Victorien Sardou, a famous French dramatist (poached eggs with artichoke hearts, ham, anchovies, truffles and hollandaise sauce), and Pommes de Terre Souffles, puffed potatoes and Escargots a la Bordelaise.

When Jules Alciatore took over the business, two factors made him decide to use gulf oysters instead of escargot—difficulty in acquiring the snails and the changing tastes of their clientele.

According to books and Antoine's website, Jules Alciatore was the father of cooked oysters, as they were hardly ever served cooked before his time. The original and exact recipe for Rockefeller was said to have gone to the grave with Jules.

Many legends surround the world-famous Oysters Rockefeller. Some say it was a customer who said they tasted as rich as Rockefeller, referring to "the" John D. Rockefeller. And Rockefeller, then being the richest man in the world, was being associated with the color green, the color of the dollar, which happened to be the actual color of these world-famous baked oysters.

There are many variations of this recipe and here's one of them. I am throwing in additional recipes so you may truly enjoy the experience of eating these wonderful things called oysters.

Bon appetit!

Oyster Rockefeller

18-24 pcs large fresh oysters on the half shell
2 tbsp Italian parsley, minced
3 tbsp green onions, minced
1 tbsp celery leaves, minced
4 tbsp watercress, minced
4 tbsp spinach, blanched and squeezed dry
4 fresh tarragon leaves
½ c fresh French bread crumbs
1 c softened butter
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Tabasco, to taste
2 tbsp Herbsaint, Pernod or Absinthe—liqueurs available at wine shops, delis and specialty stores (optional but better with)

Arrange oysters on a bed of salt. Mix ingredients until well blended and spoon generously over oysters.

Bake 350° F until butter melts and edges of oysters begin to curl up. Serve immediately.

With Cucumbers and Shallots:

18-24 pcs large fresh oysters on the half shell
3/4 c vinegar, chilled
3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
2 tsp jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped, freeze until ready to use
4 shallots, finely chopped, freeze until ready to use
1/3 c cucumbers, seeded and chopped fine, freeze until ready to use
¼ c cilantro, optional
Salt and pepper to taste

Lay oysters on a bed of ice. Combine all ingredients in a bowl, keep in the freezer until ready to use.

Refrigerate for at least one hour before using. Spoon sauce ice cold over oysters.

With Mango Sherbet:

18-24 pcs large fresh oysters on the half shell
1 c frozen mango puree (make your own from fresh mangoes)
1/3 c red onion, chopped fine
¼ c red bell pepper, minced
2 tbsp lemon, juiced
2 tsp cilantro, chopped
Salt and pepper

Lay oysters on a bed of ice. Blend frozen puree in a blender until "sherbet" consistency.

Combine rest of the ingredients in a bowl. Spoon sherbet over ice cold oysters. Do the sauce just before serving.

With Fresh Fruit Salsa:

18-24 pcs large fresh oysters on the half shell
¼ c apple, minced
2 tbsp each of fresh cilantro and mint leaves, minced
1/3 c mango, minced
1/3 c papaya, minced
1 tbsp jalapeño, chopped
2 tbsp shallots, minced
1-2 tsp sugar
3 tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp horseradish
Tabasco, optional
3 tbsp olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Lay oysters on a bed of ice. Combine the rest of the ingredients in a bowl.

Chill salsa for three hours. Top oysters with fruit salsa.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

> Many legends surround the world-famous Oysters Rockefeller

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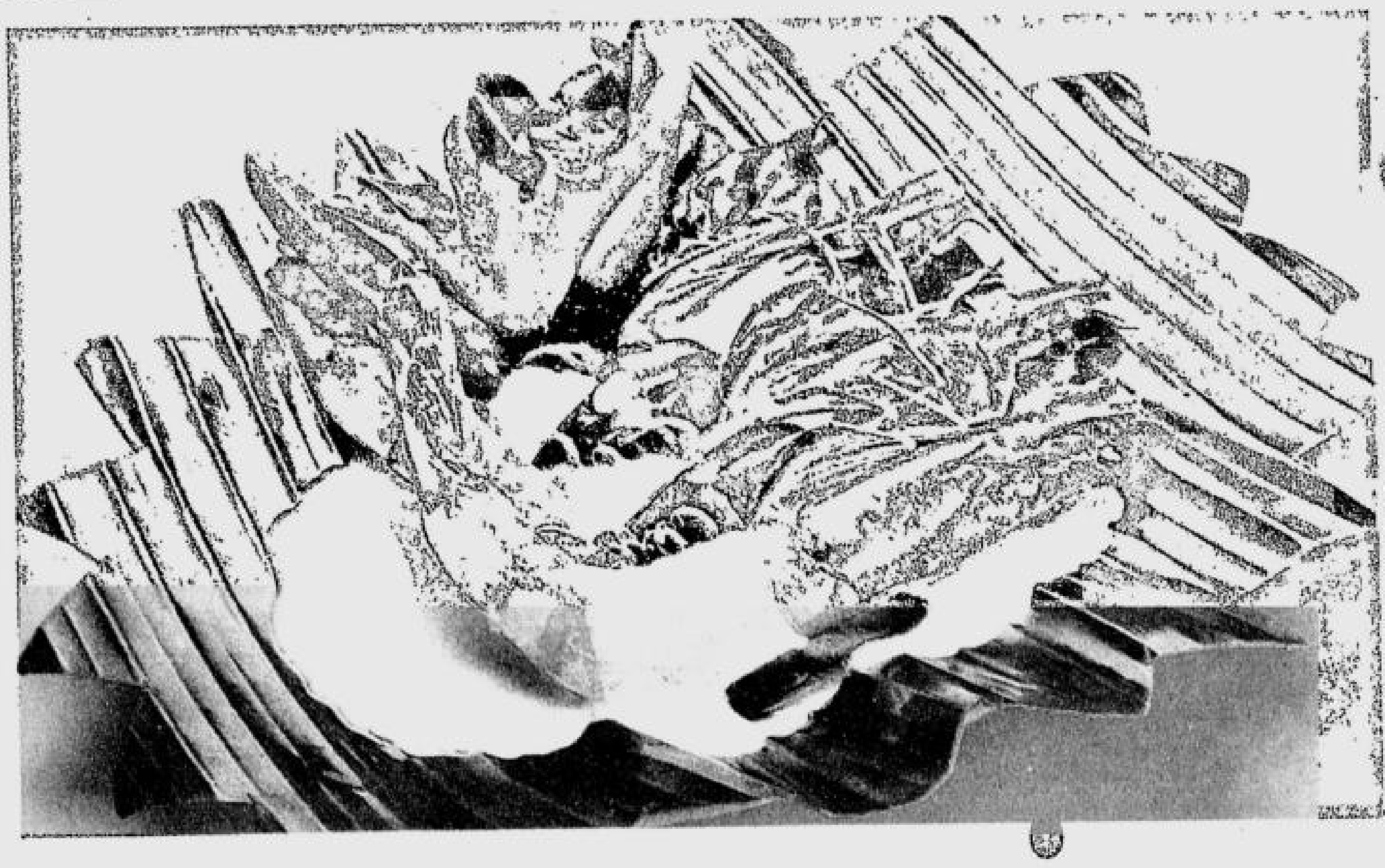
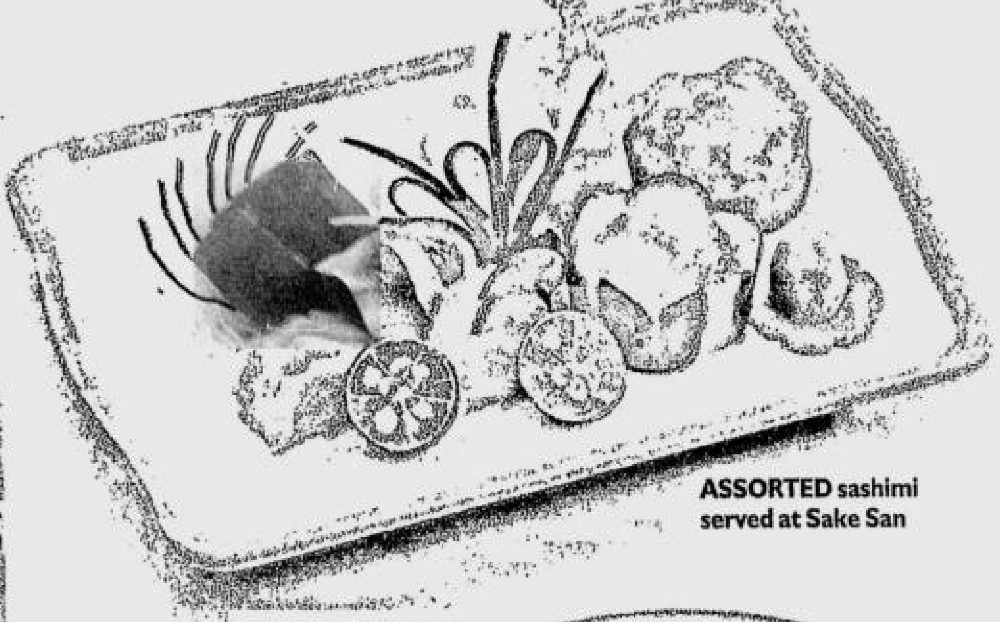
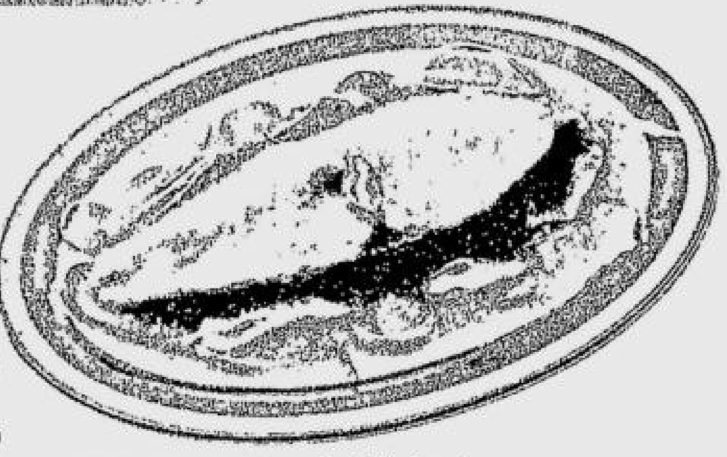


ARKIPELAGO serving of *sugpo sa gata*



ASSORTED sashimi served at Sake San



TODLAD prik, fish cooked Thai-style

Coming full circle

The Triple V group targets the younger diners as it opens its Filipino restaurant Arkipelago and its Japanese restaurant Sake San at the RCBC Tower

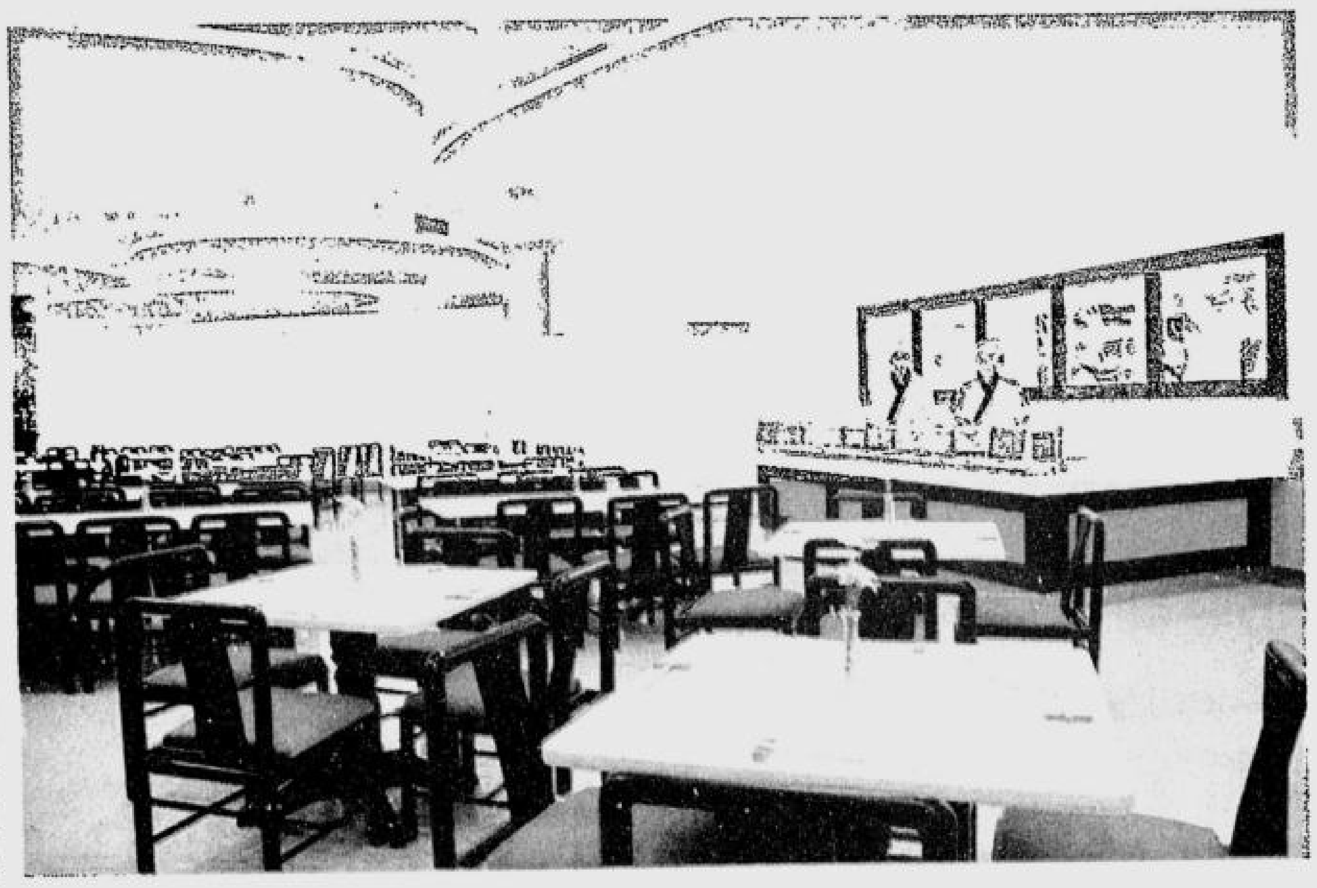
By Michaela Fenix

IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL BUT THE circular shape of the food court or emporium of Triple V at the RCBC Tower in Makati perfectly described the company's coming around to the original full-service restaurant concept of its two flagships, Kamayan and Saisaki.

The restaurant names have been changed, however. Because Saisaki is now identified with eat-all-you can Japanese food, the name had to be changed to Sake San. And because Kamayan in Pasay Road has retained its traditional Filipino cooking menu, the Filipino food restaurant is now called Arkipelago to distinguish its new style of cooking. That means a faster way of doing the *kare-kare* sauce, for instance, hardly starting from scratch but—and this was underlined—preserving the flavors.

Arkipelago and Sake San are interconnected even if the cuisine are different. It was pointed out that both countries are archipelagos and the ceiling design emphasizes that fact. It has wood cutouts for the air-conditioning which look like islands. But while there is the return to the original concept, the look and the menu in both restaurants are geared towards customers a generation younger than those when Triple V restaurants started. Also, those who are now in charge of the restaurant group belong to the next generation.

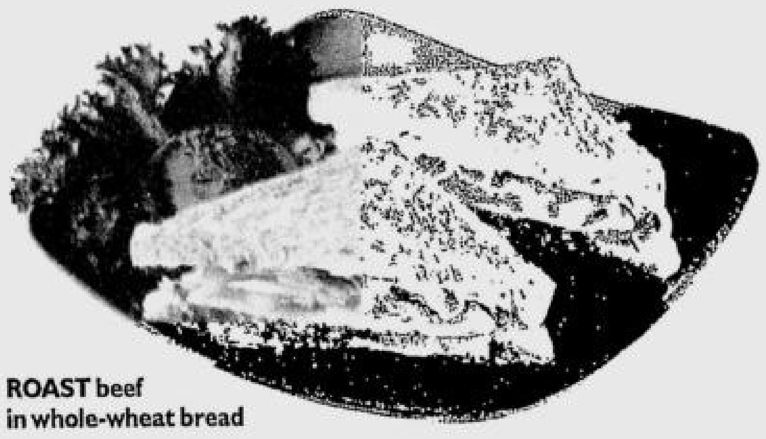
The new restaurants are just two sections of the circle. The bigger part is the Triple V Express where the crowd assembles during lunch. It is sectioned according to several kinds of cuisine. A swift survey shows Filipino, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Thai and even American sandwiches.



JAPANESE chef Isao Takada at the Sake San

Some food come from the kitchens on-site but others such as the *lechon* come from off-site cooking places because of the firepower and the longer cooking time needed. There are also salads catering to those who are into this lighter and supposedly healthier eating mode. Something for everyone seems to be the guiding principle.

ARKIPELAGO interior at the RCBC Tower



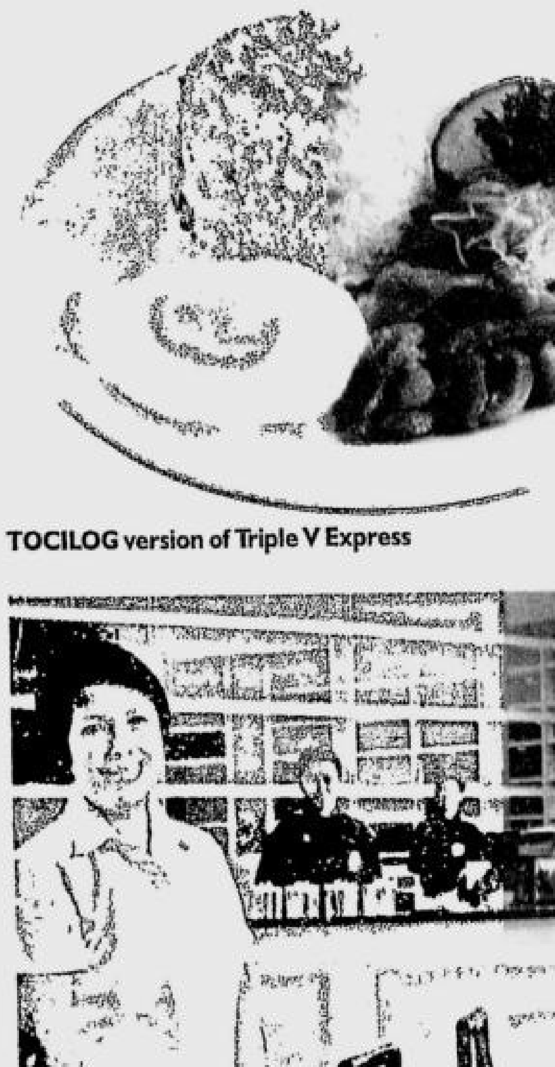
ROAST beef in whole-wheat bread

Boom meals

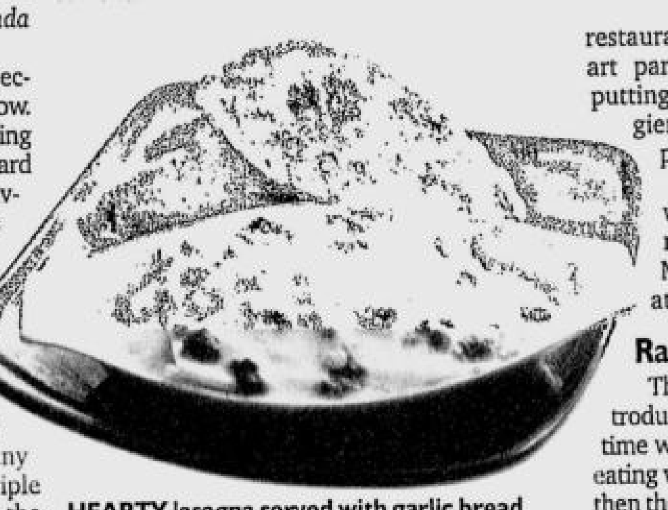
What for me was the more interesting part is way at the end of this food express just before the other entrance to the Arkipelago and Sake San. It looks more like a school or company canteen and is called the Boom Meals section. Two viands and soup for lunch will cost P80, it said on the sign strung across the back wall. That day, there was *dinuguan* and what looked like *menudo* , among other choices. There's another price for dinner, *merienda* and breakfast.

The lines may be long at the different sections but a new system has helped with the flow. A card records all the orders taken including drinks. Paying is at the exit area where the card is swiped to reveal the sum and the receipt,given. It's not a new system because this was done years ago in other places offering different restaurants in one area. While at that time the system was a novelty and a come-on, in today's world, using technology for a more efficient flow is a must.

Efficiency, whether in service, supplies or work flow, is one of the concerns of any restaurant business. Those who started Triple V as a restaurant company say running the restaurant is a science while the cooking is the art part. The science nitty-gritty includes putting up systems for a more efficient, hygienic and, of course, profitable enterprise.



TOCILOG version of Triple V Express



HEARTY lasagna served with garlic bread

Through the years, the science has worked for the company. It has helped manage so many branches in Metro Manila. And now this big circular place at the RCBC Tower.

Radical

The company has also been known for introducing new dining concepts which at the time were considered quite radical. There was eating with the hands at the first Kamayan. And then the idea of a buffet with a message: "Eat all you can but don't have leftovers or pay double." And now a food emporium that operates in an office building that is open to the whole community, not only to people who work in the building, and that operates even after or before office hours (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.). The new restaurants, though, operate the normal lunch and dinner hours.

But the company responds to other trends as well. This is apparent in the two new restaurants inaugurated this week. Sake San, for instance, has a *sake* bar because drinking this Japanese rice wine in all its variations is what the young crowd now favors. Arkipelago, on the other hand, has a *kinilaw* bar, the ceviche being one of the in-things today. There's also the coffee bar, shades of coffee places for those who just want to take a beverage and some pastries. And because the Tower is in Makati, there is an enclosed smoking section for those who can't kick the habit.

Triple V restaurants have kept on reinventing themselves, one of the principles in the science of the business. But with the latest restaurants in its roster, Arkipelago and Sake San, the reinvention meant a return to the original concept albeit with a twist.

ANNA Narvasa, executive vice president for operations, with the dining staff

IN THE CIRCLE of the Triple V Express

Billing errors drive people mad

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

I SEE RED EVERY time I discover that thoughtless delivery people have left my bills in places where these could get lost or damaged.

But after listening recently to two staff members of PDI's Lifestyle section, I now feel that my grievance against bill messengers should be the least of my worries. Billing errors are worse, and they can drive anyone crazy.

Copy editor Linda Bolido, for example, complained that the billing system of Maynilad Water Services had gotten worse. It was bad enough, she said, that messengers left the bill on top of a wall where it could easily fall to the ground and get lost as cats loved to perch there.

But last Nov. 25, she got her bill with a notice that payment was due Nov. 21! It was not the first time her bill was delivered on due date or several days after.

Moreover, the bill showed she had not paid her bill for the previous month. The payment she made through her bank was not credited. Thinking it could have been just a delay in the posting of payment, she tried to pay the latest bill through her bank.

To her surprise, Maynilad had been removed from the list of accounts she enrolled in her bank's express phone payment system. When she asked the bank about it, she was told Maynilad gave instructions for the "delisting" of their accounts enrolled by clients.

Supposedly this was because Maynilad was giving clients new eight-digit account numbers. And yet, when she compared her current bill with previous ones, she found out she already had an eight-digit account number and Maynilad had not changed it at all.

Lifestyle writer Vangie Baga-Reyes' complaint was something else. "We always pay our Meralco bill promptly—and in cash. Imagine our surprise recently when, instead of another bill, we received notice that our last 'check payment' bounced!"

Feedback

We thank two computer experts who reacted to our column about e-mail spam ("Nothing is being done about spams," Nov. 17). Here are their tips on how to prevent e-mail spam:

From independent information-technology consultant and writer Danny Escasa (http://descasa.i.ph): "There are a number of spam filtering services on the Internet. One of them is 0spam.com (that's the numeral zero, not the capital letter O). You register with them for free then enroll the e-mail addresses you'd like 0spam to examine.

"Next, you create a 'white list'—this is a list of e-mail addresses known to you, so that 0spam will deliver them straight to your enrolled mailbox(es). Those not on your white list who try to send you e-mail will receive a confirmation request from 0spam (to show they are not spammers). Those that reply, as far as I know, are automatically entered into the white list.

"The idea here is that majority of spammers use fake e-mail addresses, or don't monitor the e-mail addresses they use to send spam. It should work well for most people. Also, Gmail and Yahoo do a decent job of handling spam."

From alcantoria@gmail.com: "A simple solution is to use the message rules under Tools, if using Outlook Express or MS Outlook. Rules are executed in sequence from the first rule created on top to the last rule created at the bottom. The trick here is to add all the names of your friends into the contact list; then the last rule is, move the message to Trash. This may lessen the spam that you get, but will not block spam generated from a friend's address that has been compromised. There are also free anti-spam software add-ons, but they are not 100-percent effective."

By the way, we deeply appreciate the offers of D. Escasa and another e-mail sender named F. Castro to set up our exclusive consumer advocacy website.

Mr. Castro wrote: "I find (your consumer column) *bitin*, but then again, what can we expect considering broadsheets have limited space for writers and readers to interact? Thus, I thought of your own personal site or specifically a blog as some sort of continuation or extension of your advocacy. I am willing to help [by] setting it up and shouldering the server expenses, just to make sure your advocacy reaches [other] consumers."

E-mail the author at mvgiron07@yahoo. com

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PDI FAMILY RECIPES CONTEST

A recipe that supported a brood of 12

By Susan G. Daluz

INANGIT IS SIMILAR TO *biko* in appearance minus the *latik* on top. This is a very filling dish full of carbohydrates and acquiring both salty and sweet tastes when combined with *ginatan*. A great *merienda* any time and for all occasions, this recipe has been with our family for three generations now.

My Lola Fausta hails from Malolos, Bulacan, but now lives in Trece Martirez, Cavite, with her youngest son. She taught him how to make this wonderful, sumptuous snack and he, in turn, passed on the recipe to me.

She is still quite well, doing household chores although arthritis in her legs has slowed her down. Even now, she insists on preparing Inangit for special family occasions, saying she doesn't have arthritis in her arms and hands, which are needed for stirring this dish.

From time to time she regales us (she had 12 children, only four of whom are still living, and 42 grandchildren) with the story of how this recipe she learned in Malolos helped feed her big and growing family. She has been a widow for 47 years now.

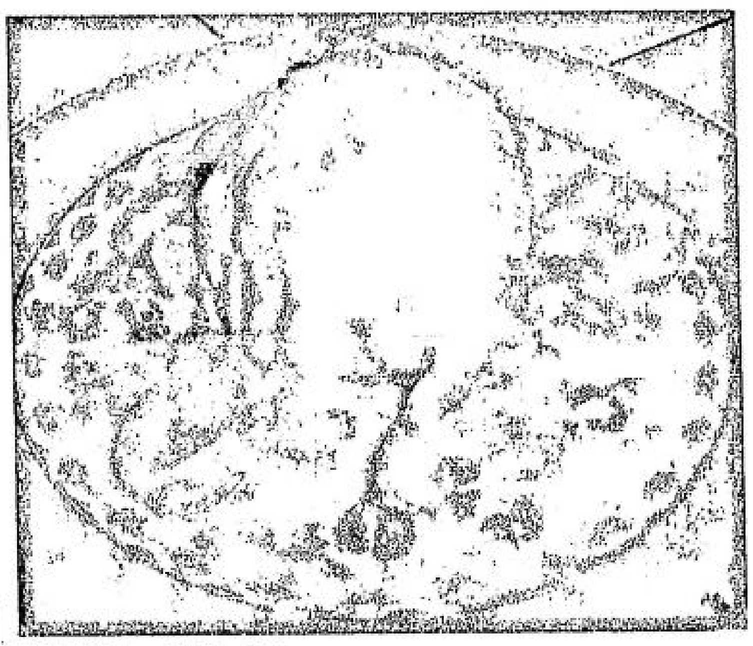
I serve this healthy *merienda* to my own family of six—with four pre-teens (two boys, two girls)—now and then, not often. But my 84-year-old *lola* can still whip up Inangit Dipped in Ginatan Halu-Halo.

As her favorite *apo* (at least she makes me feel that way), I am entering this recipe to pay tribute to her while she's still around.

Inangit and Halu-Halo

1 c *malagkit na bigas*
5 pc *saging na saba*
3 c *kakang gata*
1 pc *kamote*
1 tsp salt
1 pc *gabi*
2 tbsp sugar
1 pc *ube* (optional)
½ c *galapong* for *bilo-bilo*
½ c *sago* (small)
½ c *langka* (strands)
2-4 c grated coconut
2 c sugar (white)
Pandan leaf (optional)

Wash the *malagkit* rice thoroughly. Boil using the *kakang gata* (first extraction of coconut milk). Add salt and sugar. Cook over low fire stirring occasionally. Cook for 1-1 ½ hours until soft and chewy. Form fist-sized pieces. Set aside.



INANGIT and Halu-Halo

To prepare the Ginatan Halu-Halo:

Peel and cut into desired sizes the *saging na saba, kamote, gabi, ube* (optional). Form the *galapong* into tiny balls or *bilu-bilo*. Prepare strands of *langka* and *pandan* leaf for aroma and have ½ c tiny *sago* ready.

Prepare 2-3 c *gata*. Set aside the *kakang gata* for use later for that extra-creamy taste and presentation.

In a big pot, mix all the ingredients together, except *bilu-bilo*, using the second *gata*. Bring to a boil. Add sugar and then *bilu-bilo*.

Let boil until all the ingredients are cooked. Serve hot, pouring over a small bowl with *inangit*. Add *kakang gata* for creaminess, if desired.

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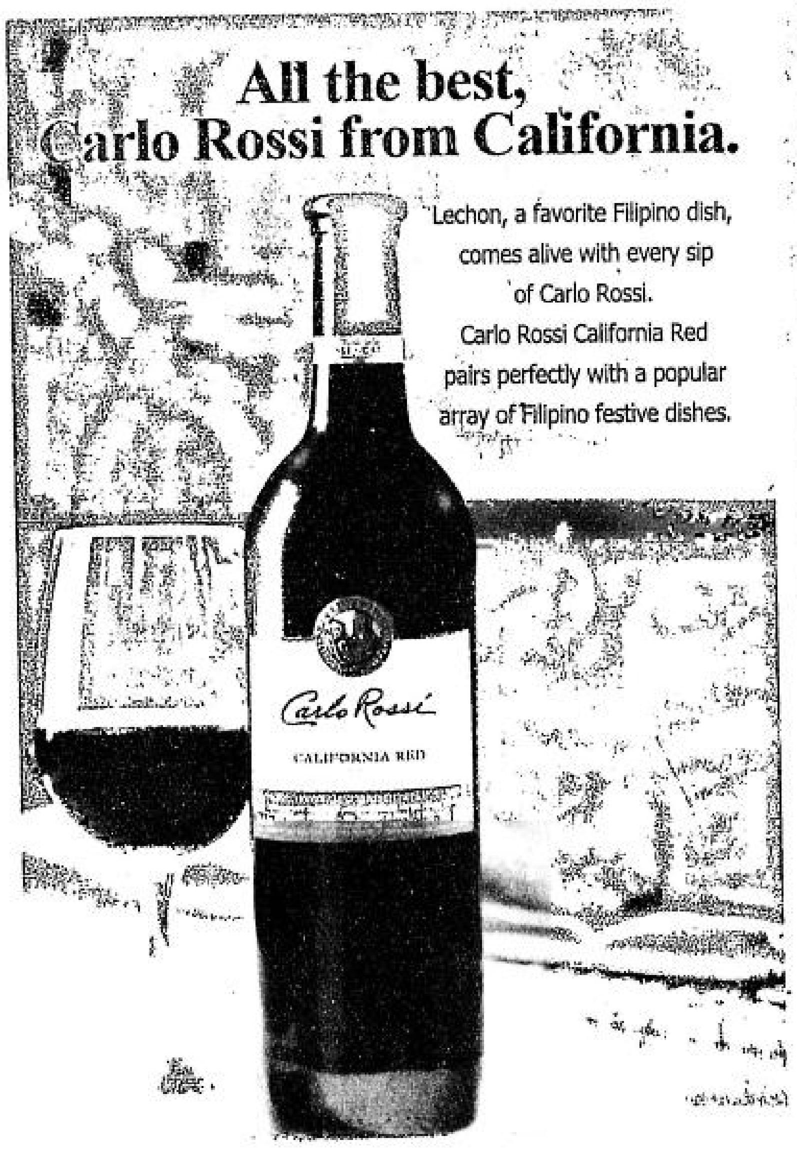
Include a **photo of the dish**. Please do not send us your photo.

Mail or deliver your entry to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Winners may claim prizes from the PDI marketing office.



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A festival celebrating 'duman'

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

THE BEST WAY TO CELEBRATE THE SPECIAL food of a place is to eat it.

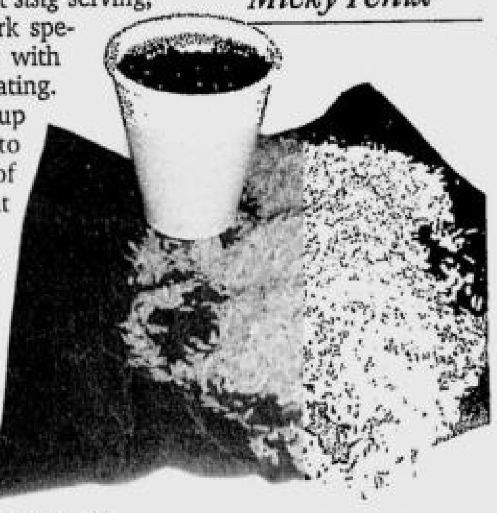
Yet some people have the idea that they have to do something spectacular to call attention to what their place offers. This is why there is the biggest salad bowl in Baguio because this mountain city is known for its salad vegetables. Then there was the longest grill in Bonoan to highlight the exceptional *bangus* of that Pangasinan town.

I've even heard of a crab race in a province known for its fat *alimango*. And Angeles in Pampanga had the largest *sisig* serving, cooking the chopped pork specialty in a huge griddle with culinary students participating.

All of these are made-up events meant mainly to break records instead of informing people about the product.

So when word got to me a few years ago that a festival celebrating not only the special rice known as *duman* but also Pampango culture was held in the town of Sta. Rita, I thought I missed my chance to experience a real festival.

Last year I finally made it to the *duman* festival, which will be held again on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 3, at the plaza of the old church of Sta. Rita.



THE GREENISH special rice called *duman* is best taken with thick *tsokolate*.

Natural backdrop

While the very first festival was held in the middle of a rice field, which gave it the proper ambiance, the presentation of Pampango culture in song and dance needed another venue. The *convento* indeed gave the program a natural, if not dramatic, backdrop.

But what is *duman*?

It is a variety of glutinous rice or *malagkit* grown only in Sta. Rita. Planting begins in June and harvest is in November when the cool air keeps the rice kernels in prime quality.

During harvest, mature kernels fall off. The prized *duman* are the young greenish kernels that stay on the stalks. The way to get the *duman* is to shake the stalks. The greenish grains are gathered, watered and toasted for two hours. The grain is pounded then winnowed to separate chaff from grain.

Because it is grown in only one place by a few farmers and is labor-intensive, one kilo costs more than a thousand pesos. Sellers in Pampanga focus on families they know can afford to buy what Pampangos call "*malagu*" or beautiful. It's beautiful to the nose, too, very fragrant when toasted.

This special yellow-green rice is usually consumed mixed with thick chocolate. Those with enough of the grains can make them into rice cakes. While *duman* calls to mind *pinipig*, which is also young rice and consumed the same way, with the real ones having the same color, *duman* isn't flattened grains. The rice retains its shape.

Preference for immature rice is likened to the attraction for 'balut' with its embryo

Like 'balut'

Cora Alvina, National Museum director, told me that the preference for this still immature rice was similar to the attraction many of us had for *balut* with the *sisiw* (baby duck) still an embryo.

Everyone can get a taste of the *duman* during the festival by buying some, not necessarily a kilo. You also get to see the rice being pounded to music provided by a *rondalla* onstage. Thick chocolate drinks are whisked with a *batidor* in a *tsokolatera*. You get the frothy beverage in a styrofoam container. Or you can bring your own porcelain demitasse if you feel the *duman* deserves a better cup.

There are other foods for sale at the festival—*bibingka* and *puto bumbong*, barbecue and other *suman*.

Last year, the big thrill was lining up with participants and organizers of the event for real Pampango favorites—the rice dish flavored with turmeric and coconut milk called *bringhe*, boiled chicken and beef called *nilagang pasku* that proved exhilarating on a cool December evening and *asadong matua*, literally grandfather's braised pork in soy and tomato sauces.

I hope they have the same menu this year. Though no one charges you for the food in that buffet of vats, some of them resting on the ground, you are asked much later to contribute some money to help pay for the food served. There is no set amount but whatever you give should be commensurate to the pleasure.

While you enjoy your *duman* in chocolate and all the Pampango specialties you can eat, the other prized produce of the town performs Pampango songs and dances. The choir is called the Artista Rita directed by a Sta. Rita native, Andy Alviz. He is a professional theater choreographer who has worked in the productions of Cameron Mackintosh. Like the food you eat, the program gives you a cultural viewpoint. And that's what a festival should be about.

To get to Sta. Rita from the Northern Luzon Expressway, exit San Fernando, proceed to the Olongapo-Gapan Highway, go past Max's Fried Chicken then, when you see a Total gasoline station on the left and a giant Jollibee billboard on the right, turn right on the next intersection.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

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For Spotless and Blemish Free Skin

A Blemish Eraser That Really Works!

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

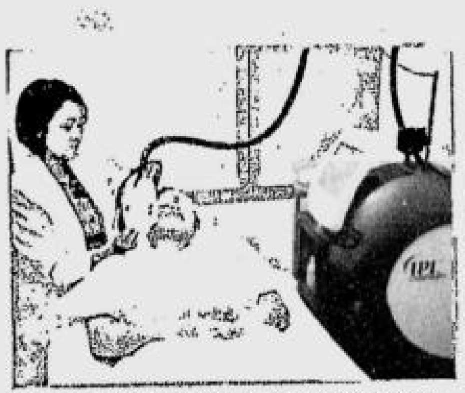
Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional



Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of; whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

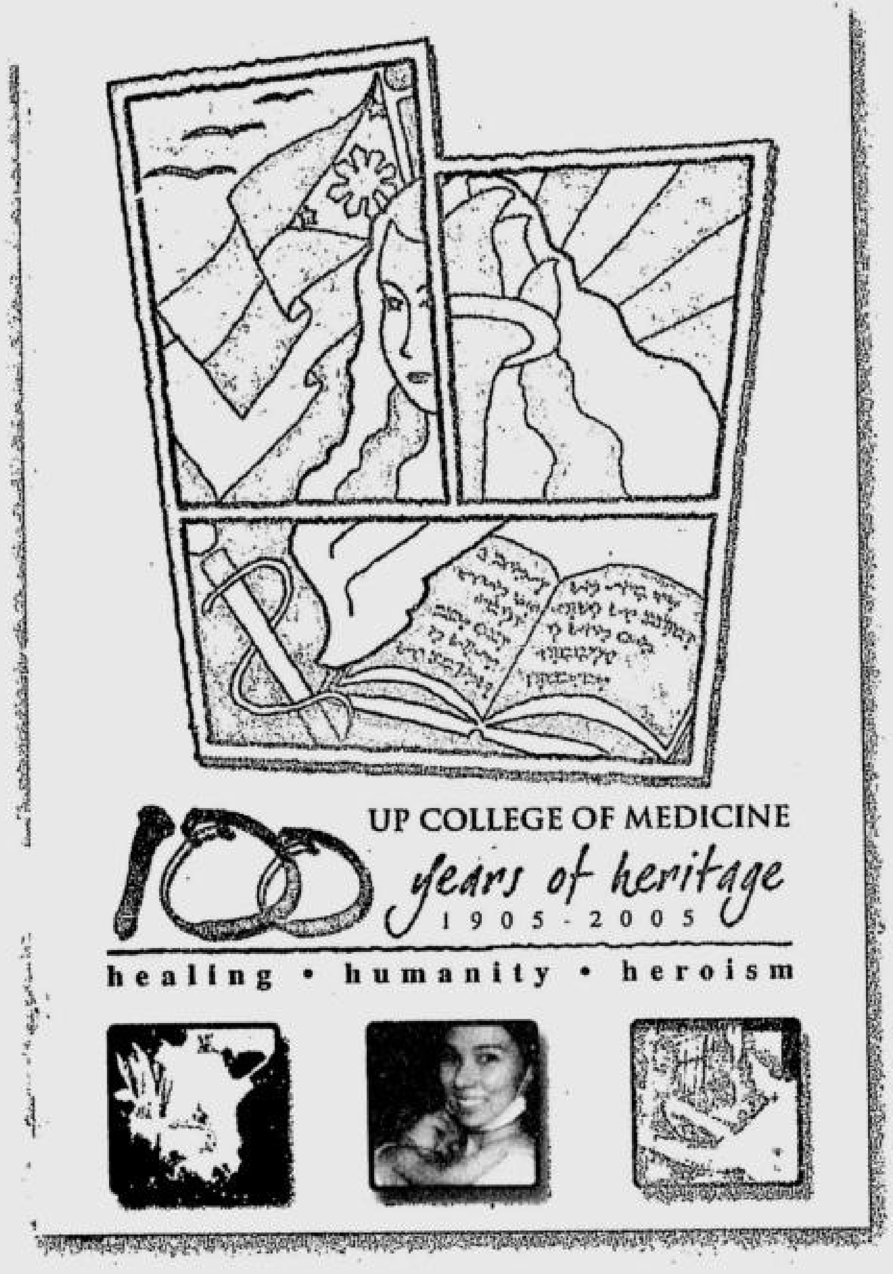
Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

UP COLLEGE



The past one hundred years bore witness to the rich heritage of healing, humanity, and heroism proudly held by the UP College of Medicine. Humanity, represented by the woman and the burning torch in Dr. Jose Rizal's "The Triumph of Science over Death," is celebrated in all forms: the versatile UPCM alumni, the people whom they serve, and the sum total of human experience they epitomize. The beacon of heroism and martyrdom, the Philippine flag, bears testament to the gallant physicians who sacrifice and continue to offer their lives in the service of the underserved. And the Caduceus, a time-honored symbol of healing, offers the Filipino people the pledge of this college: health encompassing all facets of the individual – physical, mental, emotional, and social. These comprise the fertile UPCM heritage, the open book upon which its hymn is inscribed in *alibata* (old Filipino script) - a song whose words perpetually echo in the hearts of those who have passed these halls. In its entirety, these traditions represent the values of the UPCM, and they take center stage as the institution celebrates its Centennial in 2005.

An Invitation to the Celebration

December 1, 2005 will mark the 100th year of existence of the UP College of Medicine, the premier medical institution in the country. We, the faculty, alumni, students, trainees, and administrative and support staff of the UPCM, are honored to invite you to the UPCM centennial celebration.

Please join us as we proudly journey through the achievements of our UPCM in the past 100 years. This day will be dedicated to the great men and women of the college, as well as to the many unnamed graduates of the institution, who are considered heroes in their own rights, through their service to the university and to our country. Moreover, this will be a time for our constituents to recommit themselves to the mission and vision of our college. We promise you a full day of memorable activities and performances by our alumni and friends of the UPCM. We look forward to your presence on December 1, 2005.

Cecilia V. Tomas
Cecilia V. Tomas, M.D.
Dean
UP College of Medicine

Awit ng Colegio ng Medisina

Lyrics: Romualdo A. Aragon Jr., M.D.
Music: Nestor S. Bautista, M.D.

O itanghal mutyang U.P. Medisina
Ika'y bukal ng agham at karunungan
Ang hatid mo'y pag-asa at kaunlaran
Sa ating bayang nagdurusa't
nagdaramdam

Chorus:
O itanghal Kolehiyong minamahal
Sagisag ka ng buhay at kalusugan
Ang mithi mo'y paglingkuran ang lipunan
Malaya ka makatao't makabayan.

(repeat chorus)

Mithiin ng Kolehiyo ng Medisina

Kami ay isang pamayanan ng mga iskolar,
Lubos ang kakayahan sa panggagamot
na may matayog na kamalayang panlipunan,
Taglay ang kasiglahang moral, etikal, at espiritwal;
At tapat sa patuloy na pagkatuto;
Iniaalay ang sarili sa pag-unlad ng lipunang Pilipino;
Pinukaw ng pag-ibig, pagmamalasakit at paggalang sa dignidad ng buhay;
At nakaugat sa mga simulain ng katotohanan, kalayaan, katarungan,
pagmamahal sa bayan at demokratikong pamumuhay.
Patnubay ang mga pagpapahalagang moral, etikal at espiritwal,
kami ay magpapakadalubhasa at mamumuno sa
pagtuturong medisina, pananaliksik at paglilingkod
na makapamayanan, lalo na sa mga nangangailangan,
sa pamamagitan ng pangangalaga ng kalusugan
na sumasaklaw sa lahat ng aspeto ng buhay
at nakasalalay sa pagsisikap ng bawat mamamayan.

The UP College of Medicine Centennial Endowment Fund

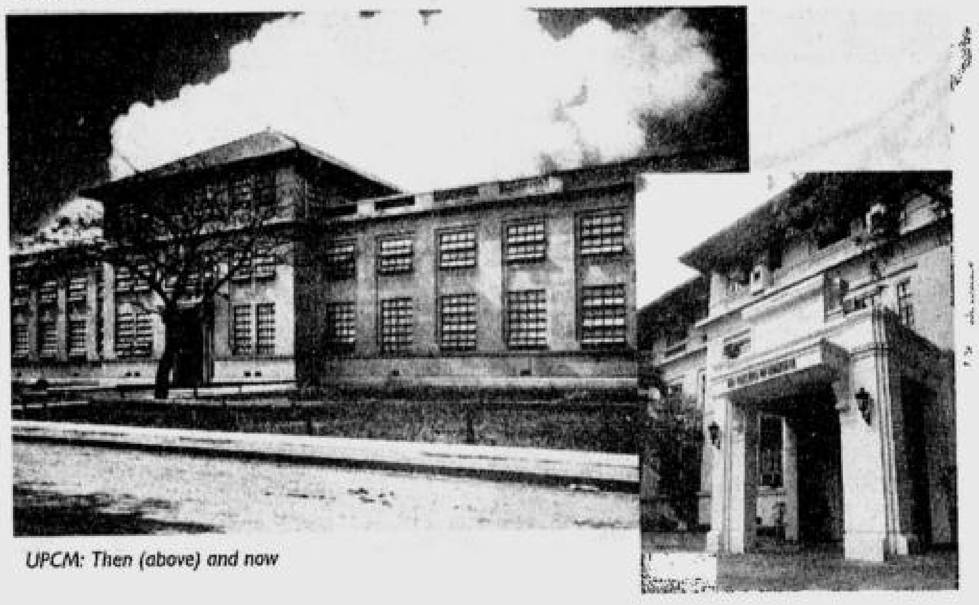
The support of alumni, friends, and various benefactors has been vital to the College's continued growth. With the celebration of the College's 100th anniversary, the UPCM is setting up the UPCM Centennial Endowment Fund (UPCM-CEF) to serve as an avenue for the support it receives.

The UPCM-CEF will be used in line with the College's goal to continually upgrade its training and educational facilities. Your contributions will finance infrastructure projects, as well as faculty and staff development and other priority projects. Your support will be our legacy to the next generation. With your help, we can ensure that the UP College of Medicine remains a beacon for the Filipino people and a cornerstone in the foundation of our nation's progress for another 100 years.

UP College of Medicine
Telefax: (+632) 536-1396
Email address: rdo@cm.upm.edu.ph
http://upcentennial.upcm.ph

Compliments of UPCM Classes '65, '66, '71, '72, '74, '75, '76, '78, '79, '84 and Departments of Anatomy and Orthopedics

OF MEDICINE 1905-2005 Centennial



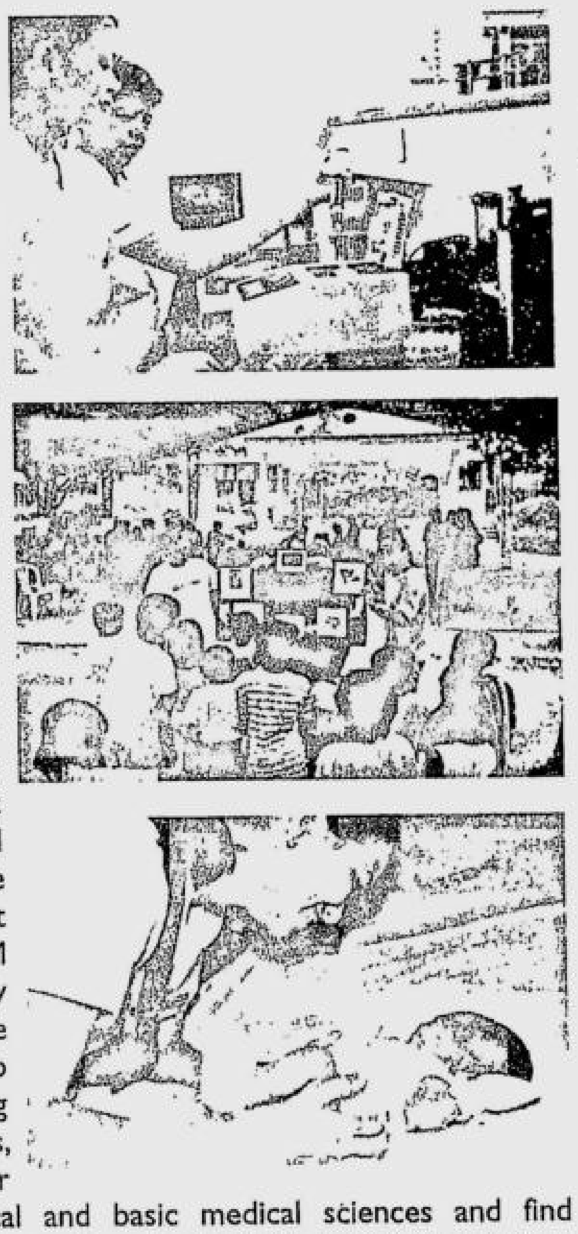
UPCM: Then (above) and now

For one hundred years, the University of the Philippines College of Medicine has served as the bastion of excellence in medical education, producing thousands of outstanding physicians in every field, blazing the path towards better health for the Filipino, and giving the country more than its share of those who dedicate their lives in the service of the undeserved. It is this heritage we are grateful for whenever we offer hope to all those we serve. And it is this heritage we leave - with all its challenges, triumphs, and hopes - to all who will come after us.

I invite you to celebrate this heritage of healing, humanity and heroism with us.

Mediadora C. Saniel, M.D.'72
Overall Chair, Centennial Celebration Committee

Pagsasabuhay ng ating misyon



As an institution that derives its support from the people of the Philippines, the University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) is mandated to develop professionals who will dedicate their talents and expertise in service to the country. The health challenges facing the Philippines are great; the consequences of the diaspora of health professionals are being felt even more sharply in underserved communities in the country. As a state-subsidized medical school, the UPCM is striving to systematize its efforts in eliminating these disparities in health. Development of community - oriented education programs for future and present physicians is just part of the solution. UPCM alumni positioned in key government and private sector posts are expected to influence policy-making towards equity. As clinicians, we must deepen our understanding of the clinical and basic medical sciences and find connection with the social sciences in order to find better, more relevant and more cost-effective ways of ministering to patients. Our research has to yield ways to address, and eventually eradicate, unnecessary illnesses and deaths among the Filipino poor. Ultimately, developing and nurturing UP physicians who understand and are capable of managing complex health issues are steps closer to solving a major part of the country's health problems.

Celebrating a centenary is a most propitious time to reflect and deliberate on our institution's role fundamental to the development of the Philippine health sector. *Ang pagiging manggagamot mula sa UP ay di lang isang pagsasabuhay ng isang pangalan. Ito'y pagsasabuhay ng ating misyon bilang isang natatanging institusyon ng kalusugan sa ating bayan; ito'y pagsasabuhay ng ating karangalan, ng ating kalinangan.* Lessons from 100 years of existence must be used to effectively address the ills of the health sector. This is the UP College of Medicine's responsibility – our legacy, our heritage.

SIYENTO

100 Years of heritage:
Healing, humanity and heroism

SIYENTO, the Centennial Book, is a work in progress. It is a record of transitions....beginnings and commencement, cadences and movements. It documents not merely physical transfigurations, but transformation of essence and character, perhaps even a transmutation to something of greater worth. Because we are all just passing through – in transit, as it were, "pilgrims in progress" as once alluded to – it is our hope that this Book will move us to transcend the conflicts, large or small, that have beset us. May it soothe our past hurts, real or imagined; allow us to reminisce on the happy, foolish and frivolous times, and laugh at ourselves again; rekindle our love for the College - too often a wavering flame – and bequeath all these to those who will come after us.

DECEMBER 1 CENTENNIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

9:30 AM - 12:00 NN	Planting of Centennial Tree Laying of Time Capsule Unveiling of the Centennial Monument Groundbreaking of Faculty Hall
1:00 - 3:00 PM	Alternative Learning Activities
7:00 PM	Siyento: 100 Years of Heritage - Awards Night & Musical Gala Launching of the Book, "Siyento" Advocacy Pledge

CENTENNIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT DISTINGUISHED AWARDEES

Dr. Paulo C. Campos - Class 1945
Dr. Nelia Cortes-Maramba - Class 1960
Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit - Class 1943
Dr. Fe del Mundo - Class 1933
Dr. Geminiano de Ocampo - Class 1932
Dr. Juan Salcedo Jr. - Class 1929
Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo - Class 1955

CENTENNIAL SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDEES

RESEARCH

Dr. Ramon F. Abarquez Jr. - Class '53
Dr. Benigno F. Agbayani Sr. - Class '60
Dr. Herminia Baja-Panlilio - Class ' 39
Dr. Benjamin B. Cabrera - Class '45
Dr. Alendry P. Caviles Jr. - Class '54
Dr. Domiciana Dauis-Lawas - Class '44
Dr. Edito G. Garcia - Class '49
Dr. Lillian V. Lee - Class '64
Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua Sr. - Class '56
Dr. Manuel P. Macapinlac Sr. - Class '55
Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea Jr. - Class '65
Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla - Class '81
Dr. Flora M. Pascacio - Class '55
Dr. Patricio F. Reyes - Class '71
Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino Jr. - Class '57
Dr. Thelma Tupasi-Ramos - Class '64

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dr. Jorge Vicente G. Camara - Class '76
Dr. Edita Canete-Miguel - Class '78
Dr. Juan M. Flavier - Class '60
Dr. Sergio S. Gasmen - Class '66
Dr. Lourdes L. Ignacio - Class '63
Dr. Inesita I. Javonillo - Class '57
Dr. Ma. Paz Mendoza-Guazon - Class'12
Dr. Ma. Dominga B. Padilla - Class '85
Dr. Reynaldo D. Pagtakhan - Class '61
Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera - Class '44
Dr. Arturo C. Reyes Jr. - Class '40
Dr. Manuel T. Rivera Sr. - Class '41
Dr. Jesus V. Tamesis Sr. - Class '43
Dr. George H. Viterbo - Class '55

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Dr. Saturnino Ador-Dionisio - Class '35
Dr. Aida C. Baltazar - Class '49
Dr. Cornelio DG. Banaag Jr. - Class '63
Dr. Solita Camara-Besa - Class '38
Dr. Adelaida Dalmacio-Cruz - Class '53
Dr. Romeo B. Espiritu - Class '54
Dr. Horacio R. Estrada - Class '50
Dr. Antonio M. Limson - Class '58
Dr. Luis M. Mabilangan - Class '52
Dr. Lourdes A. Manahan - Class '43
Dr. Augusto M. Manalo - Class '59
Dr. Corazon Paulino-Gonzales - Class '44
Dr. Porfirio M. Recio - Class '41
Dr. Rafael S. Recto Jr. - Class '59
Dr. Marita VT. Reyes - Class '64
Dr. Agerico B. Sison - Class '21
Dr. Lourdes Vera-Lapuz - Class '49

BUILDERS IN MEDICINE

Dr. Gloria T. Aragon - Class '40
Dr. Zenaida G. Bagabaldo - Class '53
Dr. Guillermo R. Damian - Class '52
Dr. Ernesto O. Domingo - Class '61
Dr. Quintin J. Gomez Sr. - Class '44
Dr. Florentino B. Herrera - Class '41
Dr. Hilario Lara - Class '19
Dr. Martesio C. Perez - Class '58
Dr. Antonio O. Periquet - Class '59
Dr. Alfredo T. Ramirez - Class '61
Dr. Pedro G. Reyes - Class '28
Dr. Victor A. Reyes - Class '43
Dr. Mutya T. San Agustin - Class '57
Dr. Jose V. Silao Jr. - Class '56
Dr. Ambrosio F. Tangco - Class '36

GRETCHEN Cojuangco and Amparing Aspiras

THE AUTHOR with former First Lady Imelda Marcos

CYRILLE SOENEN, Nana Ozaeta, Fernando Aracama, Jose Sotto, J Gamboa, David Pardo de Ayala and Cathy Santos

A must-have for every kitchen

AT THE LAUNCH OF REGGIE ASPIRAS' NEW book, "Kitchen Rescue: Excerpts and More from the Philippine Daily Inquirer and then Some," celebrities, foodies, star chefs, and then some came in full force.

Aspiras—chef, specialized instructor, consultant and food writer—started writing her Lifestyle column in the INQUIRER three years ago, picking up where Nora Daza left off in answering queries from readers relating to the sourcing, cooking and serving of food.

Since Kitchen Rescue is no ordinary column, the resulting compilation is no ordinary cookbook. Aspiras put together a visually delightful collection of her answers to readers' questions, cooking tips and tricks, as well as recipes from her own kitchen and those of her guest chefs. The dishes presented range from Pinoy favorites to international dishes.

Kitchen Rescue
Inquirer

The book is a stew of culinary who, what, when, where, and why. The readers become privy to kitchen secrets, such as how to keep lettuce fresh and green, stories on the origins of dishes and gourmet tips on how to cook the perfect fried chicken. Also featured are never-before published articles, as well as indexes to help readers find topics and recipes.

The first in what is hoped to be a series, "Kitchen Rescue: Excerpts and More from the Philippine Daily Inquirer and then Some" is exclusively distributed by Emerald Headway Distributors Inc. (6474744/6470468) and is available at all leading bookstores and magazine stands.

JUN BAYOT and Boy Aspiras

BABY and Babot Oreta

REGGIE with son Jose Diego and sister Cristy